

## Abortion rights dealt blow; protests mount across U.S.



Rally in New York City on July 5 drew 6,000 women's rights demonstrators protesting Supreme Court ruling. Thousands of others protested around the country. (See article on page 11.)

Militant/Margrethe Stem

### Stakes rise in battle for right to choose

The following statement was issued July 5 by the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

The Supreme Court decision upholding the restrictions on abortion imposed by the government of Missouri is a big blow to working people everywhere. It is a major attack on women, for whom the right to control their own bodies is decisive for winning full equality.

The ruling has provoked a widespread, angry reaction from forces supporting women's rights. Actions, some in the thousands, are occurring in every corner of the country to immediately protest the reactionary ruling.

They herald a sustained struggle as opposing sides marshal forces for a nationwide battle whose course and outcome will determine the status of legal abortion and affect other working-class fights, including for affirmative action, which is also under attack

Continued on Page 14

### Nat'l rally in October to protest decision

BY FRED FELDMAN

"The government of the United States has blood on its hands," declared Melodie Bahan, a leader of the National Organization for Women, in a New York City news conference a few hours after the July 3 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court upholding Missouri antiabortion laws.

Two days after the ruling, NOW National President Molly Yard called for "a mass mobilization of the American people" at the end of October in Washington, D.C., to protest. "We are going to turn this country upside down because we aren't going to take it anymore," Yard said.

The ruling dealt a massive blow to women's right to abortion — the biggest setback since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that effectively threw out state laws making it a crime to have or perform the operation. The ruling was also a sharp attack on the constitutional right of privacy.

Bahan stated at the New York news conference, "Today's Supreme Court decision will make access to safe, legal abortion even more difficult for the women of this country, especially poor and young women." She estimated that "200,000 women worldwide die yearly of illegal, unsafe abortions."

Planned Parenthood President Faye Wattleton asserted that, as a result of the ruling, "American women are less independent and less free."

Norma McCorvey, who, under the court name of Jane Roe, brought the suit that led to the 1973 ruling, stated, "It saddens my heart very deeply to know that poor women, are once again going to be out there going to backstreet abortions and possibly be mutilated."

Continued on Page 11

## Newark to Portland: Eastern's renewed flights met by strike support actions

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Responding to one of the biggest challenges in their 18-week strike, Eastern workers and supporters began to muster their forces around the country on the July 2 weekend.

Actions by unionists at airports in a number of cities confronted the stepped-up effort by Eastern Airlines to get its planes in the air and start up the "new Eastern."

By slashing fares and using a slick media

campaign, Eastern hopes to convince the public that the strike by mechanics, ramp service workers, cleaners, flight attendants, and pilots is over. Reports from strikers in several cities indicate that Eastern may have packed some flights by giving travel agents promotional tickets, handing out complimentary tickets, making nonstriking Eastern employees fly, and honoring tickets voided when Eastern filed for bankruptcy.

Strike rallies were organized in some cit-

ies. Expanded picketing, and petitioning of passengers asking them to honor the boycott of Eastern and Continental airlines, were organized in others. Both are owned by Texas Air Corp.

In Milwaukee 400 unionists turned out at the airport for a rally timed to coincide with Eastern's resumption of flights to Atlanta. Participants then marched through the airport and demonstrated outside the Eastern terminal.

In Newark a spirited and loud group of strikers, 300 building trades unionists, communications workers, postal workers, garment workers, and auto workers marched and rallied for two hours around Newark International Airport. Several participants inspired by the turnout felt more actions like this one were needed.

San Francisco strike supporters mobilized forces twice on July 2, numbering more than 300 pickets each time. They chanted "Union yes, Lorenzo No!" and surprised airport officials, passengers, and the company by the size of their turnout. The action was a big boost to the less than 40 strikers at the San Francisco station.

In Chicago, fire fighters, transit workers, government employees, oil workers, electrical workers, steelworkers, Machinists union members, and others swelled the picket-line ranks. They were joined by United Airlines flight attendant trainees. Some had previously worked for Eastern and convinced their fellow trainees of the importance of supporting the strike.

Striking coal miners joined forces with

Continued on Page 7

## Youth from 179 countries at festival in Pyongyang, Korea

BY MARGARET JAYKO

PYONGYANG, Democratic People's Republic of Korea — Thousands of people from 179 countries have gathered in the capital city of North Korea July 1-8 to attend the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students.

Participants include national delegations from each country, delegations from international organizations, officials of governments and political parties and other special guests, and hundreds of journalists. The 12 previous festivals were held in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Finland.

A broad spectrum of political forces have united around the theme: "For anti-imperialist solidarity, peace, and friendship."

Because Korea is forcibly divided into

two countries as a result of U.S. military intervention, the struggle for Korean reunification is a major focus of the week's events.

This struggle is symbolized by the arrival of a single delegate from South Korea, who is participating in the festival despite threats by authorities in Seoul.

At a packed news conference held at the International Press Center here, Rim Su Gyong explained that she had to travel for 10 days from Seoul through Tokyo, Berlin, and Moscow to make what would be a four-hour drive.

No travel or communication is carried out across the Military Demarcation Line,

Continued on Page 13

### Coal walkouts still solid



Militant/Dan Fein

More than 37,000 miners in eight states remain off the job in solidarity with striking United Mine Workers members at Pittston and New Beckley coal companies, despite court ruling banning the walkouts. (See story, page 5.)



# Thousands at Puerto Rico independence march

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans filled the streets in a march here June 17 demanding independence from the United States. The action targeted the Government Reception Center, where a U.S. Senate committee was conducting hearings on Puerto Rico's status. Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony since 1898.

These hearings, held by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over U.S. "territories," followed similar hearings held June 1-2 in Washington D.C. The hearings took up Puerto Rico's political status in preparation for a plebiscite on this question in Puerto Rico in 1991.

The march began at Luis Muñoz Rivera Park and proceeded to the capitol. When the first marchers arrived at the rally site, the last had not even started.

The demonstration was roughly the same size as an action in 1971 to protest the holding of the National Governor's Conference in Puerto Rico. Some 70,000 participated in that march, the largest proindependence action ever in Puerto Rico.

The day after the June 17 march, *El Nuevo Día*, the largest newspaper on the island, estimated that 50,000 had participated. *The San Juan Star* reported 80,000, the number provided by the march organizers. The police made no official estimate.

For the first time in many years, all political tendencies in the independence movement joined forces to build a common activity. Heading the march were former senator Rubén Berrios, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP); Carlos Gallisá, general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP); Juan Mari Bras, president of the Independence Common Cause Organization; Rafael Cancel Miranda and Lolita Lebrón, former political prisoners who spent 25 years in U.S. prisons; and Jorge Farinacci, one of the defendants in the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 case.

The PIP initiated the march and invited all proindependence supporters to participate. The theme was "No more colony." Participants were asked to bring Puerto Rican flags rather than party symbols. The result was a sea of red, white, and blue flags, each with one star.

"The independence movement alone can



Militant/Ron Richards

June 17 demonstration in San Juan was largest proindependence action since 1971. Initiated by Puerto Rican Independence Party, the march targeted U.S. Senate hearings on Puerto Rico's status.

guarantee that Puerto Rico march along the route of decolonization," read a PSP statement prior to the action. "The June 17 march will be the biggest and most important public hearing in which we will put forth our claim to self-determination and independence."

Protesters from throughout the island marched behind banners with their town

names. Dozens of school buses were chartered to bring people to the event. Environmental and religious groups also carried banners.

Because the U.S. senators were the target, many of the banners and chants were in English. One of the most popular was, "Yankee go home!" The hearing was attended by senators Bennett Johnston of

Louisiana, Daniel Moynihan of New York, and James McClure of Idaho.

A short rally with music followed the march. Artists participating in the rally included singers Roy Brown and Danny Rivera, and comedians from the group Los Rayos Gamma. Leaders of the independence movement were introduced from the stage, but no speeches were given.

## Young Socialists to hold August convention

BY AARON RUBY

NEW YORK — Striking Eastern Airlines workers and the spreading walkouts by coal miners across the Appalachians. The struggle for independence in Namibia. The deepening of the Cuban revolution and the role of Cuba in the world today.

These political developments will be at the heart of discussions by young socialists active in struggles across the United States, at their 26th national convention August 10-11 in Oberlin, Ohio.

The Young Socialist Alliance convention follows an International Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference beginning August 5, hosted by the Socialist Workers Party and YSA.

Leaders of the revolutionary organization of young workers and students met here June 17-18 to discuss the signs of a growing fightback by working people — in the battles at Eastern Airlines and in the coalfields.

They took up the significance of the massive demonstration in Washington, D.C., on April 9 and other actions taking place around the country in response to recent attacks on abortion rights.

The YSA leaders concluded that struggles taking place today offer more opportunities for young socialists to win new people to the YSA.

Also at the center of the YSA leaders' discussions was organizing support for the international campaign for justice for Mark Curtis. A former national chairperson of the YSA, Curtis is a packinghouse worker who was framed up on rape and burglary charges in Des Moines, Iowa, last year and is now serving a 25-year sentence.

"We will be encouraging everyone planning to attend the YSA convention to also come participate in the International Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference," explained YSA National Executive Committee member Heather Randle.

"Communist activists from around the world will be there," she said, "and there will be reports, classes, workshops, and informal discussions on the struggles that have been unfolding in the past months."

Randle said that a brochure is available outlining the YSA's political perspectives. It will be widely distributed by activists building the convention.

"The YSA has also asked candidates of the Socialist Workers Party to help build the national convention as part of their campaigns," she noted. YSA members are campaigning for SWP candidates in many cities around the country.

YSA chapters are organizing to get as many young people as possible to the convention and the conference preceding it. For a brochure with information on the event and how to get there, contact the nearest chapter of the YSA listed in the directory on page 12.

Supporters of the *Militant* and *Persepectiva Mundial* sold more than \$80 worth of Pathfinder books, as well as 46 single copies and two subscriptions to *PM* at the June 17 demonstration, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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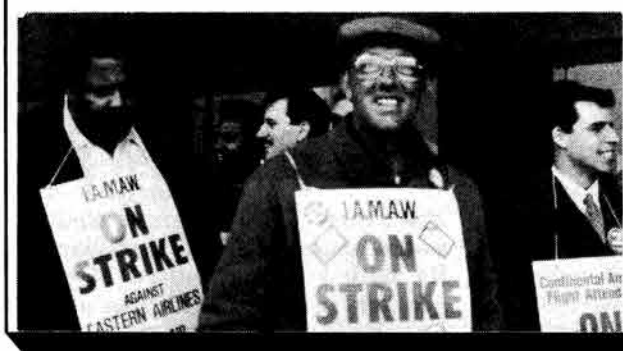
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# Cuban general tried for drug trafficking

He 'aspired to become a capitalist businessman,' stated Raúl Castro

BY SELVA NEBBIA

"In an exemplary fashion, unparalleled in history," the Cuban Communist Party daily *Granma* stated July 3, "our revolution is airing the embarrassing episode of the group of irresponsible individuals, who, seeking wealth and the good life, linked to crazy, vain, and unreal projects, involved our country in drug trafficking."

The editorial was referring to the recent investigations that revealed the involvement of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez and Col. Antonio La Guardia and other officers of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT) in drug trafficking.

Ochoa and La Guardia's grouping independently worked with Colombian drug traders to help smuggle cocaine to the United States between 1986 and '89.

On June 26 a military tribunal made up of 47 generals and admirals recommended that Ochoa be stripped of his military rank, dishonorably discharged from the armed forces, and court-martialed.

Ochoa was awarded the medal Hero of the Republic of Cuba in 1984, had led military missions in Angola and Ethiopia, and served as an adviser in Nicaragua. He was arrested on June 12. Ochoa, La Guardia, and 12 others are currently being tried by a military court.

## Messages of repudiation

On June 23 the Cuban combatants in Angola sent a message to Raúl Castro, minister of Cuba's armed forces. They asked Castro to convey to the military tribunal "the repudiation we feel for the corrupt attitude of Ochoa Sánchez as demonstrated by his criminal activities."

Speaking before the tribunal on June 26, Raúl Castro said, "I have to admit with all frankness that signs of violations and irregularities in the way Ochoa carried out his responsibilities as a leader were mixed with and became confused with his temperament and with some particular aspects of his personality. This made it difficult to distinguish his real thinking from his constant jokes."

Castro pointed out that Ochoa was able to cover up his "crazy ideas," by making what he "really thought in all seriousness appear as a joke."

Ochoa was called to order for this early on, as far back as 1970, stated Castro. Yet until recently, these breaches did not mean that he could not carry out important assignments, the Cuban leader said.

## Obsessive interest in money

"A key element in Arnaldo Ochoa's behavior over the last years was his growing and obsessive interest in becoming involved in commercial operations and in the most different types of businesses," explained Castro, "and his unhealthy overestimation of his ability in this field."

"His model was no longer that of being the most dedicated cadre of the revolution," said Castro, "nor of the ordinary men of our country who were his subordinates under different circumstances and gave him examples of heroism and dedication."

Only Ochoa himself will be able to explain how he evolved and how "becoming a typical capitalist businessman got to be his ultimate aspiration," he pointed out.

Castro explained that Ochoa covered up his financial ambitions with "an apparent exaggerated concern for the well-being of his men."

"We received word of the unbridled populism that he had exhibited during the past months," he added. Breaking all the norms that had been previously established, Castro continued, Ochoa gave gifts to officers as a way of "creating an image of himself and personal ties to himself, with an utter lack of principles and ethics."

In Angola, instead of "strengthening the morale of the officers at his command," said the Cuban leader, "Ochoa combined this practice of giving gifts like one of the Magi, gotten through embezzlement and manipulation of financial resources, with a corrosive verbosity that led to deception, if not confusion and demoralization."

Castro gave an account of how Ochoa "practically in front of anybody" would present himself at times as a victim. "I have been sent to a lost war so that the defeat will be blamed on me," he would say," according to Castro.

"At other times he would pose as a military and political strategist, savior of the republic,

and supreme critic, because according to him, 'We were too honest and did not take advantage of deals such as money laundering.'"

It was this mode of behavior and attitude that led Ochoa to become involved in criminal activity, explained the Cuban leader.

## Ochoa's first deals

Ochoa first began thinking of getting involved in drug trafficking in mid 1986, according to Castro's account. At that time one of his tasks had to do with the division of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in charge of military collaboration with other countries. This did not include the Cuban military missions in Angola and Ethiopia, which were managed directly by the Chief of Staff.

At that time Ochoa, through his assistant, Capt. Jorge Martínez Valdés, made contacts with drug traffickers in Panama and Colombia. At the end of 1987, while making these contacts, Ochoa ran across La Guardia's separate drug operation, which was already under way.

La Guardia was in charge of a special department, known as "Z" of the Ministry of the Interior, which had been established in 1982. The department was later renamed "MC."

The function of Department MC, according to a June 22 editorial in *Granma*, "was to obtain and transport medical equipment, medicines, computers, and other equipment, spare parts and accessories for equipment made in the United States. Anything that could be of use to our country. These activities were absolutely just and moral in light of the criminal U.S. blockade."

"To conduct these operations," explained *Granma*, "Department MC had connections with U.S. citizens or residents in that country who had access to means to transport products to Cuba by air and water. Not a few necessities were resolved this way. But the department was obligated to work under strict norms that rigorously prohibited any ties with elements in any way related to drugs."

"Department MC had the facilities to coordinate its activities with the Border Guard forces and with the aeronautical authorities," *Granma* explained. "Everyone gladly cooperated with them. It was precisely thanks to these powers and facilities that Tony La Guardia and a group of officials — operatives close to him — deceived personnel in other MININT departments, which led to their cooperation with drug trafficking, thus allowing themselves to be dragged along by that corruptive plague that infects the continent and that our country had been able to liberate itself from until that time."

## La Guardia used Dept. MC as cover

Antonio La Guardia, his brother, Col. Patricio La Guardia, and others working with them were able to take advantage of the special status of Department MC to carry out their drug operations. In fact, Antonio La Guardia's first contact with drug traffickers was done through an official from Department MC in Panama.

As their drug operations became more sophisticated, *Granma* pointed out, "the La Guardia group cooperated in communications, housed the crew, and resupplied the boats. All this was done under the guise of normal activities of the MC department." They calculate that they helped to move six tons of cocaine, for which they received about \$3.4 million.

By April 1988 Ochoa was not only aware of the La Guardia group's dealings but received its help in arranging trips for Martínez in and out of the country. Several drug trafficking operations were set up between Ochoa and the La Guardia brothers.

None of Ochoa's drug deals were successful, however. Ochoa and Martínez did not have the means to carry these operations out. They depended on the La Guardia group, "who rather than sincere collaborators, were his rivals," *Granma* noted.

## Exemplary punishment

After becoming aware of all these facts, Raúl Castro pointed out before the hearing, the reaction of the Cuban people went from "incredulity to consternation. These understandable feelings nevertheless immediately gave way to the deepest indignation and conviction of the necessity of the most exemplary punishment."

"Arnaldo Ochoa's behavior cannot stain the heroic internationalist endeavor of our people in Angola, because this is the product of the labor of hundreds of thousands of men who did know how to carry out their duty and accomplish the mission that the revolution assigned them to," said Castro.

## Cuito Cuanavale

"But it is truly embarrassing and cause for indignation to think that during the most difficult days when our combatants were fighting the epic battle at Cuito Cuanavale," Castro pointed out, "Ochoa was frantically dedicated to contacting and coordinating deals with international drug traffickers." Angolan and Cuban troops dealt a decisive defeat to South African troops at Cuito Cuanavale in March 1988.

In its July 3 editorial, *Granma* took up some of the slanders against the Cuban revolution that have been circulated in the capitalist press in various countries.

"They talk about power struggles, of people being sacrificed as scapegoats to cover up the responsibility of others," the editorial said.

They claim "that this episode is a stain that will never be erased, that there are divisions among the ranks of the party and in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, that the pillars of the revolution are beginning to crumble."

"How little they know our people and our Cuban revolution! Little do they know of our ability to turn setbacks into victories, no matter how hard and bitter they might be."

"Our people know that our party has never lied to them. When the party speaks about any problem — whether through its best-known leaders or through its press — it never strays from the truth, not even by a word or a comma."

## U.S. aware since 1987

The U.S. intelligence agencies, the editorial continued, were aware that planes loaded with drugs from Colombia were landing in Cuba with the involvement of Cuban officers.

"They knew who the officers were," stated *Granma*. "They had agents infiltrated among those who participated in these operations. But they did not say one word of this to the Cuban government, either in an official or a confidential capacity. The entry of tons of drugs to the United States could have been avoided, but they were much more concerned about building up arguments in their campaign against Cuba, than really stopping the entry of drugs into that country."

"Perhaps they were thinking of recruiting future agents of the CIA among those who were involved, by the use of blackmail. Whatever their goals might have been, they have suffered a hard blow."

## Dominican, facing extradition to U.S., dies while in police custody

On June 29 Daniel Mirambeaux died while in the custody of Dominican police and U.S. agents in the Dominican Republic. According to the Dominican police, Mirambeaux committed suicide as he was in the process of being extradited to the United States. Police claim Mirambeaux jumped out of a window.

A former political activist in the Dominican Republic, Mirambeaux, 42, emigrated to the United States in the early 1980s. He was accused of killing a policeman during a shootout in New York on Oct. 28, 1988. He allegedly fled the next day to the Dominican Republic. At the time of his death he was being held on charges of illegal arms possession.

The police accounts of Mirambeaux's death are contradictory. Hilda Mirambeaux, his wife, denied that her husband had killed himself. "No, my husband is incapable of killing himself; he was killed," she said.

While there is no extradition treaty between the United States and the Dominican Republic, Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer approved the extradition on condition that the U.S. judicial authorities vowed not to seek the death penalty for Mirambeaux.

## New stage in Puerto Rican freedom struggle outlined at N.Y. forum



Militant photos by Selva Nebbia

Olga Sanabria (right), member of the Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and Luis Miranda, representative from Casa de las Américas, spoke at Militant Labor Forum in New York June 30. "The Puerto Rican people have never been free," said Sanabria. "For 400 years Puerto Rico was colonized by Spain, and since 1898 it has been a colony of the United States." "It is our duty to fight for and support Puerto Rico," stated Miranda. The forum discussed the plebiscite scheduled for 1991 on the political status of Puerto Rico. Other speakers were Roderick Thurton of the Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity and José Berríos of the PSP. Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan borough president, chaired the meeting. "The good thing about the plebiscite," said Berríos, "is that it has brought many different forces in Puerto Rico together." He was referring to the massive June 17 demonstration held in Puerto Rico under the banner of "No more colony." Berríos urged participation in an August action in New York when the United Nations committee on decolonization will discuss Puerto Rico.



# Protests against prison's literature ban grow

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

terial is against his rights and the rights of all prisoners."

Francis Calpotura, the Western regional director of the Alliance for Philippine Concerns, sent a mes-

Signatures came from activists involved in anti-apartheid, abortion rights, and Irish political prisoners defense activities held that day.

Supporters of the Curtis Defense Committee in Sweden are also getting protests to prison authorities and winning new support for Curtis. They have produced a two-page fact sheet in Swedish that explains the Curtis case, as well as the prison officials' decision to ban non-English literature and correspondence.

Annika Åhnberg, a member of the Swedish parliament, added her voice to those demanding that the ban be lifted.

Committee supporters organized several meetings to win new support for the case in May. These included meetings with 20 metal workers in Stockholm, 60 members of the Turkish Workers Association in Fittja, and the board of the Federation of Kurdish Associations, which became a sponsor of the defense effort. Several people signed sponsor cards and 650 crowns (US\$100) were raised at the meeting in Fittja.

Three Swedish left organizations adopted resolutions in May supporting the Curtis defense effort. They are the Communist Youth, Socialist Party, and Young Socialists.

Several Miskito Indian leaders in the northern Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua are helping to organize support for Mark Curtis. The coordinators of the Peace and Autonomy Commission for the Puerto Cabezas region, Gaston Briones and Clementina Williams, prepared a petition in the Miskito language demanding that Curtis be freed. "We regard this young North American worker as our brother in the struggle for peace and for the rights of the poor peoples of the world," the petition concludes.

One leader of the Peace and Autonomy Commission volunteered to take the petition and other defense committee literature around to the homes of several Miskito women who are community activists.

Another organization getting out the word about the case is the Sandinista Workers Federation. The head of the union federation in Puerto Cabezas, Rosalia Gutierrez, is a defense committee sponsor and has written Curtis in prison.

In preparation for the May Day celebration in Puerto Cabezas, special union meetings were held in all the different workplaces, and at several of these meetings, Gutierrez gave a presentation on the Curtis case. "All of us, as workers," said a Sandinista National

Liberation Front member at one meeting, "should see Mark not just as a man who was beaten up but as an example of a new man, a man who fights for the needs of working people."

Other workers took defense committee literature to post on the bulletin boards in their workplaces, and several said they would circulate a card or letter to Curtis.

At its April 28 meeting, the city-wide executive board of the teachers' union heard a report on the defense effort by the regional general secretary, Víctor Ruiz. It assigned union leader and women's movement coordinator Susana Morley to give a short presentation on the Curtis case at the main May Day rally.

The executive board voted to endorse the defense campaign and to organize some fund-raising activity. "We don't want to send our card without some material assistance," said Ruiz, "even if the most we can collect is one or two dollars." The average salary for a teacher in Puerto Cabezas is \$25 per month.

Sandra Nelson from Des Moines, Inge Hinnemo from Stockholm, and Matilde Zimmermann, who was in Puerto Cabezas, contributed to this article.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international political campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

A flurry of protests has reached prison authorities at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, Iowa, where Curtis is incarcerated. The protests are a response to their decision to ban non-English language magazines and correspondence to Mark Curtis and other prisoners.

Ida Mae Blackwell, a longtime Des Moines activist against police brutality, wrote to prison officials. "A couple of my sons have been in your establishment. I know how they were abused by counselors, received major write-ups based on false reports from guards, and faced kangaroo prison courts. So I am a strong supporter of prisoners' rights. Denying Mark Spanish ma-

sage to prison officials in Tagalog and English. The message protested the ban. Calpotura ended the message saying, "The policy that you employ is similar to those used in other countries like the Philippines to suppress the rights of political prisoners."

Twenty members and officials of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union signed protest statements sent to Anamosa. The unionists learned of the denial of Curtis' rights from Curtis Committee sponsors at a national OCAW legislative conference and OCAW District 8 conference in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of June.

Founder and national director of the American Indian Movement, Clyde Bellecourt, demanded that the banning be reversed. "These policies are a gross denial of the human and constitutional rights, not only of Mark Curtis, but of all prisoners in Anamosa," he wrote.

Committee supporters in Chicago collected more than 50 signatures on protest letters on June 17.

# Prison officials reverse punishment for Curtis

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Mark Curtis won his appeal of a major write-up by prison authorities on July 3 and the measures carried out to punish him were in large part reversed, according to Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Singer received the news from William Kutmus, Curtis' attorney. Curtis spoke with

authorities' ruling that banned non-English language materials and correspondence.

An international protest campaign launched by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee forced prison authorities to hand over to Curtis two books that had been denied him — a Spanish-English dictionary and *501 Spanish Verbs*.

Even books in English are not automatically accessible. Books ordered by and sent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Organization and Curtis are now being reviewed by various prison committees. Titles being reviewed include speeches and writings by Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, and Fidel Castro, and pamphlets on struggles against racism and for women's rights.

Following a three-hour visit with Curtis on June 30, Stu Singer reported that Curtis was heartened by the immediate support he received in response to these recent attacks on his rights by prison officials.

Curtis also reported that while his rights

had been limited on Level III, the conditions in the cell block were not substantially worse. He said he was able to keep his television and that the cell was a little larger, with more sunlight.

Curtis was also encouraged by the wide support and solidarity shown to him by other prisoners who felt he was unjustly punished.

"This victory is a victory for every prisoner who wishes to communicate and remain in contact with the outside world and to take a stand with other prisoners in defending their rights," said Singer. "It is also a victory for everyone who responded quickly and decisively," he added.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is continuing to press its campaign to get the prison authorities to drop the ban against non-English language materials as part of defending Curtis' and other prisoners' rights against harassment from prison authorities.

Protests should be addressed to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Copies should be sent to: Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; Paul Grossheim, Director of the Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

## Dozens of telegrams and letters were received from around the country.

Kutmus on July 5 and reported that he had won the appeal and had been moved back to his Level IV cell.

Curtis received a major write-up from authorities at the Iowa State prison in Anamosa for spitting on the sidewalk during a summer Basketball League game sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Organization. He explained in a June 27 letter to the defense committee in Des Moines that he spit when his mouth dried while playing the game.

As punishment Curtis, a political activist who is serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges, was moved to a new cell block, Level III, where prisoners have fewer rights. There prisoners can only leave or enter their cells at certain times, and tape players, radios, and typewriters are prohibited. Curtis' prohibited items were placed in storage.

Level III prisoners are also not allowed to hold positions in prisoners' organizations. Curtis was therefore removed from his post as secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Organization.

It is unclear whether Curtis will still have to serve two weekend lockups for the spitting incident. Prisoners on lockup are not allowed to leave their cells.

Dozens of telegrams and letters from around the country were received by prison officials from former political prisoners, activists, church groups, and peace organizations. They protested the punishment as harassment of Curtis.

Curtis recently challenged a prison

## Curtis court appeal filed

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — Attorneys for union and political activist Mark Curtis filed an appeal brief June 27 in the Supreme Court of Iowa. This continues the process of appealing the decision of a trial court last September that convicted Curtis of sexual abuse and burglary. He was sentenced to 25 years and is now in the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa. The appeal seeks to reverse the conviction and requests a new trial.

The appeal brief argues that "he was falsely accused and framed by the Des Moines Police Department because of his political views and activities." The brief also argues that "the trial court erred in overruling" Curtis' motion for a new trial, which was based on the trial judge "improperly excluding evidence" critical to his defense. In addition, it argues that "the court should have granted a new trial based upon several allegations of jury misconduct" and that the evidence used to convict Curtis was insufficient.

The brief was filed by Des Moines attorneys Lylea Dodson Critelli, William Kutmus, and Mark Pennington. The prosecution now has time to respond to the defense brief. Then the state supreme court will decide whether the appeal will be considered and if so, whether there will be a

hearing before it or the Iowa Court of Appeals.

Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, explained, "The court proceedings on both the appeal and the federal civil rights lawsuit Curtis filed against the Des Moines police and city government are moving forward. The focus of the defense campaign will remain on winning international backing for Curtis' fight to increase his and other prisoners' contact with the outside world, their access to literature and right to share it among themselves, and against their victimization by prison authorities."

Mounting legal costs and the effort to get out the facts about this fight require more fund-raising, Singer said. "We hope supporters around the world will continue their efforts to raise \$100,000 by mid-September, the first anniversary of the trial."

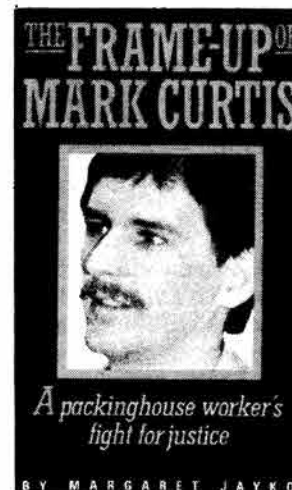
"We have ambitious plans," he added, "to produce more literature and to organize additional tours by defense committee spokespeople to speak at conferences, meetings, and with individuals about this fight."

To contribute funds or receive copies of the appeal brief at \$2.00 each, write the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

from *PATHFINDER*

## The Frame-up of Mark Curtis A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$2.50.



Available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.)

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# Miners' solidarity walkouts stay firm

## Court orders strikers back to work

BY RONI McCANN

Sympathy strikes by thousands of coal miners remain solid throughout Appalachia and the Midwest despite a recent ruling banning their walkouts.

More than 37,000 miners in eight states remain off the job in solidarity with striking United Mine Workers of America members at Pittston and New Beckley Coal companies in Virginia and West Virginia. UMW coal miners struck the Pittston Coal Group in April after working over 14 months without a contract.

In June more than 44,000 union miners across the country went on strike in support of the Pittston workers. Recently miners have returned to work in Virginia and Missouri. Most UMW members are on a scheduled two-week vacation due to end the second week in July.

On June 27 federal Judge Dennis Knapp ruled that the walkouts by miners violated guidelines of the National Labor Relations Act against secondary boycotts. He issued a temporary injunction against the strike activities at the request of the National Labor Relations Board and ordered union officials to end the walkouts. Officials have 10 days to report to the court on steps taken to do this.

When asked what will happen if the miners don't comply with the injunction, an NLRB spokesperson told the *Charleston Gazette* that he preferred not to think about that. "I don't know what will happen if they don't comply," he said.

Meanwhile, strikers continue to organize demonstrations in support of their fight. On June 28 some 1,000 miners from nine states rallied in St. Paul, West Virginia, the day after the injunction was handed down. Many miners had been in Virginia staying at the UMW

## West Virginia coal production down from prestrike levels.

Camp Solidarity in Russell County. More than 50 members of the United Steelworkers of America, along with other trade unionists, joined the rally.

Joe Keiker of USWA District 20 compared the harassment the miners face by Virginia police and private security forces to the treatment USWA members received during their strike at the shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, 10 years ago.

"In 1979 we faced the same police. We're going to stand behind you until every Pittston miner has a contract and is back at work," he said.

Striking miners from Pennsylvania presented a check for \$6,972.75 to the Pittston miners for their strike fund.

Six days later, on July 4, another 1,000 miners gathered in St. Paul as UMW Vice-president Cecil Roberts announced the latest NLRB ruling. The board declared the strike against Pittston to be over unfair labor practices. This mandates that scabs hired by the coal boss during the strike will be fired after the strike is settled.

Also addressing the rally was Bill Stewart, president of UMW District 18 in Canada. Along with a \$15,000 contribution from Canadian miners, Stewart brought greetings from the National Union of Miners in Britain and the International Miners Organisation.

With no end to the walkouts in sight, the strikes are reducing coal shipments and supplies. Production fell by 13 percent nation-



Militant/Dan Fein

Some 1,000 striking miners and supporters rallied in St. Paul, West Virginia, June 28, the day after court injunction was handed down.

wide during the week ending June 24 compared to the week before the strikes began, according to figures released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In West Virginia, it dropped by 24 percent from pre-strike levels. One trade journal reported that several steel producers are "screaming bloody murder" about their shipments.

The president of the Maben Energy Mine in West Virginia complained that he has more than 2 million tons of coal on the ground now. "I can't get it loaded and delivered to fill orders," he said. "This strike is killing me." As a result, Maben Energy owners announced on June 29 that they consider their contract with the UMW to be "null and void" because of the walkouts.

Another coal company, BethEnergy Mines, told its striking miners that it will discontinue health benefits if they don't return to work.

Island Creek Coal Co., one of the largest coal companies in West Virginia, filed suit against the UMW on June 29, saying that the walkouts were costing the company \$364,000 a day because of shutdowns at its mines.

Two of Pittston's union mines, Elkay and Buffalo, which account for about 13 percent of Pittston's overall coal production, are all but shut down. Other Pittston mines are still running coal at a reduced rate.

At McClure No. 1, a union mine, 58 scabs are mining underground and 45 are working the preparation plant. Pittston brought in six mobile homes for the scabs and has hired four cooks. State police escort coal trucks in and out of the preparation plant.

A striker at the McClure No. 1 explained, "We need an unprecedented effort on our part and the entire union movement of this coun-

try. Either we practice all for one and one for all, or we're going down.

"To win this strike," he added, "we need to stem the flow of scabs, keep production down, and persevere."

In Stone and McAndrews, Kentucky, Pittston miners joined the strike last month. On June 19, the UMW expanded the strike to all of Pittston's mines, including those in West Virginia and Kentucky. Since then no coal has been mined from either location.

Soon after the strike began, Pittston brought Vance security agents, notorious for their harassment and provocations against strikers, into Stone and McAndrews. The community became outraged when a Vance agent ordered a woman standing on her porch to get back in her house. The union organized a demonstration of 300 against Vance and forced the agents out of town, escorted by Kentucky state troopers.

The strikers in Kentucky are organizing a rally on July 7 and have invited members of the United Auto Workers in that area to speak. Rallies are also planned on July 8 in Logan, West Virginia and July 22 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Illinois miners are standing firm. Although most UMW members are on vacation, those who were scheduled to perform maintenance tasks during the shutdown did not report to work. Many miners have been part of several caravans that have traveled to Virginia to aid the Pittston strikers. Another caravan will be leaving on July 5.

Dan Fein, participant in a Militant reporting and sales team to Virginia; Maggie McCraw from Charleston, West Virginia; and Ellen Haywood from St. Louis contributed to this article.

## W. Virginia job action backs Pittston miners

BY MARY IMO AND MAGGIE McCRAW

ALLOY, W. Va. — Early in the day on June 30, some 300 unionists gathered outside the plant gate of Elkem Metals for a walkout and rally in support of the miners on strike against Pittston and New Beckley Coal.

Planned and organized by the members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 3-89, the action started with day-shift workers staying out 30 minutes. They were joined by others coming off midnight shift and 11 members of OCAW Local 3-495 who made the three-hour trip from Radford, Virginia.

Like many plants in the area, Elkem runs on coal. Coal-fired boilers provide steam to make the electricity needed for the process furnaces, which also use coal to produce metal. Since the United Mine Workers strike against Pittston began in April and the subsequent sympathy strikes by thousands of miners, coal supplies in this area have dwindled. Elkem's stockpile will only last another 20 days.

At the June 30 rally, OCAW and UMW local and international representatives spoke to the crowd from the back of a pick-up truck.

"We think the Eastern Airlines strike and the Pittston strike are two examples of corporations trying to kill the unions," said OCAW International representative Roger Bradley.

Clifford Crum, UMW District 17 representative, followed. "Hopefully actions like this one are an inkling of more to come," he said. "We need all the support we can get. We're in a fight for our lives with Eastern and Pittston."

UMWA International Executive Board member Howard Green referred to the continuing discussions of a merger between the mine workers' union and OCAW. "We feel this will form a stronger bond between OCAW and the UMW."

Many workers at Elkem used to mine coal or have relatives who are coal miners. Demetria Pauley, who has worked in the plant for 13 years, is one of the few women hired to do hot and heavy work around the furnaces. She had just returned from a women coal miners' con-

ference in Illinois and enthusiastically told of her experiences there.

Mike Price, a furnaceman, noted the importance of his local union's support for the miners. "We've got to stick together," he said. "If they break the UMW, we're next."

Mary Imo is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 598 at Union Carbide in South Charleston, West Virginia. Maggie McCraw is a member of OCAW Local 3-89 at Elkem Metals in Alloy, West Virginia.

## S&L banks lose billions; gov't bails out owners

BY FRED FELDMAN

Three days before the U.S. House of Representatives voted for a White House-backed plan for a government bailout of the wealthy owners of savings and loan institutions, it was reported that the "thrifts" had lost \$3.4 billion in the first quarter of 1989.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board reported the losses June 13, linking them to the withdrawal by depositors of more than \$28 billion in the first three months of 1989 from savings institutions.

The board also revised upwards its estimate of S&L losses for the fourth quarter of 1988, from \$2.3 billion to \$3.2 billion. This brought 1988 losses to a record \$13 billion.

Since February the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which formerly insured only the banking industry, has taken over 220 insolvent savings institutions. In addition to taking over more failed S&Ls, the FDIC is expected to end up with some \$100 billion in real estate held by thrifts.

S&Ls are banking institutions whose main activity consists of accepting deposits from the public and investing those deposits in long-term mortgages. They used to be known as "building and loans."

They first came under federal regulation in 1933 when Congress passed legislation aimed at reviving the banking system, which

had collapsed in the midst of the Great Depression. Bank deposits, including those in federally chartered S&Ls, were covered by federal deposit insurance. Today, deposits of up to \$100,000 are insured.

For many years thrifts provided the majority of U.S. home loan mortgages. In re-

## Congress hits working people for \$150 billion bailout.

cent years, competition from commercial banks and corporations such as General Motors and Sears pushed down the percentage of mortgages provided by the thrifts to 39 percent in 1987 from 48 percent in 1979.

In 1981 and 1982, government rules were changed to allow S&Ls to offer variable-rate mortgages and diversify their financial dealings. The S&Ls were reeling at the time under the impact of soaring interest rates, which attracted funds away from the thrifts to other investments. The changes in the rules enabled these institutions to participate to the hilt in the speculative binges that have helped to power the economic upturns that have followed the

deep 1981-82 recession and the much smaller dip in 1986.

The collapse of oil prices sent S&Ls in Texas into a tailspin. By 1988, 47 percent were insolvent. While Texas has been at the center of the crisis, the instability of the thrifts has been nationwide — affecting operations in California, Maryland, Ohio, and across the country.

The House and Senate have now approved measures, differing in some details, that provide for a bailout of the owners of the crisis-ridden savings and loan institutions. The cost will be at least \$150 billion to U.S. working people, taken from tax revenues over the next 30 years. A joint conference committee is to work out the differences.

The S&Ls are not the only part of the banking system that is emitting danger signals.

Banks continue to fail at record rates even as bank profits hit new highs. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. reported June 14 that U.S. banks scored a \$7.3 billion profit in the first quarter, topping the previous quarter's \$6.7 billion record.

But so far this year, the FDIC reported, 93 banks failed or needed federal help in 1989, compared with 88 in the same period of 1988.



# 'We need to remind ourselves of what we've done'

The International Association of Machinists struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the unions and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by the 5,700 flight attendants and 3,200 pilots at Eastern, the strike by 8,300 Machinists has crippled the airline's operations since then. It

## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

has also won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

More than 100 unionists from the Washington, D.C., area came to a "Women's Day on the Picket Line" June 25 at National Airport. Strikers and other airline workers, and their families, were joined by steelworkers, miners, nurses, garment workers, and other unionists.

"Why should we stand for concessions?" flight attendants' union leader Sandra Palmer asked, speaking to the rally that was part of the

event. "We don't owe anyone an apology for expecting to move forward in our lives and in our jobs. The majority of us on strike are not only women, but also heads of families. We cannot continue to go backward in our wages as prices spiral upward."

"Do we realize our power? We need to remind ourselves of exactly what we have done," she continued. "We have shut down Eastern Airlines for 114 days. We have brought Frank Lorenzo to his knees."

No matter what corner of the country they're held in, Eastern's scab hiring sessions are met with pickets backing the Eastern walk-out.

Strikers and supporting unionists make sure that those who come to the "open houses" seeking jobs at Eastern, usually as flight attendants, are informed about the issues in the strike. In many cases, applicants decide not to go in. Some of those who do, come out and get the strikers' side of the story.

Machinists, flight attendants, and other unionists made special efforts to strengthen picket lines at Los Angeles International Airport after newspaper ads appeared inviting job applicants to come to Terminal 6 on June 21 and 22. The terminal has been shut down tight since the strike began.

On short notice, strikers and sup-

porters pulled together to get more pickets there to talk to job applicants about why they should not take strikebreaking jobs at Eastern. Flight attendants brought strike literature and encouraged job seekers to apply at other union-organized airlines that are hiring.

Quite a few of those who came decided not to go in after talking with the pickets. One 18-year-old woman explained that she didn't know the strike was still on. She agreed to go back and tell her friends why she decided to honor the picket line. A young Filipino-American woman did the same, and so did a number of others.

Eastern did attract some 50 people who either walked quickly through the pickets or took a round-about route through the airport to avoid them. Even a few of these came out to talk to pickets after their group interview.

In Chicago, on June 10, a dozen striking flight attendants and several other unionists picketed a hiring session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Oak Brook, an hour and a half west of Chicago.

On June 14 a picket line of 25 was on hand at the Holiday Inn near Washington, D.C.'s National Airport. "The unity among Eastern's workers should tell you something about what it's like to work for Frank Lorenzo. Very few have chosen to fly during the strike," said a leaflet distributed to those who

came to apply for jobs as flight attendants. The pickets got a very positive response from many of the would-be applicants.

The same day, a hiring session held at an Allentown, Pennsylvania, hotel was picketed by pilots and flight attendants.

"We had some 'moles' at Eastern's 2:30 p.m. session. Two of them were my school-aged daughters," said pilot Walt Prosser. Several striking flight attendants and a pilot's wife also got in.

They reported that Eastern is reducing training time for new flight attendants from six to four and a half weeks. To recruit workers, the company is also paying them during training, something that was not done in the past.

Some 500 strike supporters lined up across the Foreriver Bridge in Quincy, Massachusetts, June 21, wearing signs that urged passing motorists to "Boycott Eastern and Continental."

Groups of laborers, glaziers, electrical workers, members of area Machinists locals, and others marched with the strikers. The action was called by the Norfolk County Massachusetts Labor Council.

Eastern flight attendants and pilots came out in uniform, and many striking Machinists wore "Fighting Machinists — proud to be union" T-shirts. Most people in passing

cars honked, waved, or gave the thumbs-up sign to the pickets.

At one end of the bridge, a local bar owner who supports the strike gave out free drinks to the pickets.

Both major postal unions in Miami — the National Association of Letter Carriers and the American Postal Workers Union — have been active in backing the Eastern strikers. Postal workers have joined demonstrations, helped collect material aid, invited strikers to speak at union meetings, donated to the strike fund, walked the picket line, and more.

The May issue of the *South Florida Letter Carrier* featured an article about the labor movement's stakes in the Eastern strike: "At war with Lorenzo: Labor finally says 'Enough is enough!'" by Bill Rayson.

Postal workers all over southern Florida have also fought for and won the right to wear Eastern strike buttons on the job.

*Ike Nahem and striking Machinists Local 796 member Nancy Brown, both from Washington, D.C.; Maggie Pucci, member of Machinists Local 1726 in Boston; Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles; Martin Koppel from Chicago; and Bill Rayson from Miami contributed to this column.*

## Noncontract workers find ways to aid Eastern strike

BY PAT HUNT

MIAMI — When Eastern Airlines Machinists walked off the job March 4, several noncontract workers here refused to cross the picket lines.

Noncontract employees at Eastern work as reservation and ticket agents, as gate agents, in clerical positions, and at other jobs not represented by a union.

Once the strike started, the airline was virtually grounded, and about 9,500 noncontract workers were laid off within days. There are now some 2,700 working at the airline, and another 1,700 are supposed to be called back by July 2, Eastern's deadline for resuming some more flights.

The International Association of Machinists and Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) are trying to reach out to the noncontract workers. A large sign hangs outside IAM Local 702's hall here that says, "Welcome all noncontract employees; we love Eastern as you do."

Noncontract workers are invited to IAM

meetings, and they can receive food from the strikers' food bank if they are unemployed. Some have come into the union hall to help with the food bank and have walked the picket line.

ALPA has helped noncontract workers set up a local hotline in Miami and provided them with office space.

When asked why she refused to cross the picket line, reservations agent Barbara Fernandez said, "Just sick of Lorenzo." Before the strike — when many noncontract workers were forced to put in 10-hour days, six days a week — Fernandez asked her boss when and how she would be paid. She was then moved away from other workers and told she was a "people stirrer." "You are not paid to think, just to answer the calls," she was told.

Fernandez and Julie Parrondo, also from reservations, walked the picket line soon after the walkout began.

Shortly after they were discovered on the picket line, Eastern terminated Fernandez and Parrondo on the grounds of improper

conduct toward the company and fellow employees.

Eastern denied a review of their terminations until the company is back in full operation. Parrondo said she was "just disgusted" that she was fired.

"The company doesn't have the right to fire me," she said. "I only wanted to save Eastern and realized that the right side was the side of the union, which also wanted to save Eastern and our jobs."

Both workers are now part of efforts to reach out to other noncontract employees. By talking to coworkers over the phone, they have been able to get a feel for this weak spot in Eastern's strikebreaking plans.

Many of the people now working at Eastern in noncontract positions are afraid and want to stay neutral, thinking this is the best way to keep their jobs.

Despite the atmosphere of intimidation fostered by the company, however, noncontract workers have begun to organize to advance their interests.

### 'The Plan'

Workers call Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo's plan to reorganize Eastern as a smaller, nonunion carrier "The Plan." It now requires that noncontract workers work 50 hours a week for 40 hours' pay. All vacations for the rest of the year have been canceled. The accumulation of years of service for pension benefits have been frozen. Some 1,000 managers were demoted permanently

to ramp service and cleaning — jobs Lorenzo plans to eventually contract out.

When these moves occurred in early June, hundreds of noncontract workers were angered. They began circulating a petition to protest Lorenzo's plan. The petition calls for the removal of Mary Grace Shore, the noncontract workers' representative on the creditors' committee in the Eastern bankruptcy proceedings.

Shore is viewed by workers as a hand-picked representative of Lorenzo, not of the increasing numbers of dissatisfied noncontract employees.

Fernandez reports that from 4,000 to 5,000 signatures have been collected on the petition and sent to the creditors' committee. The noncontract workers hope to replace Shore with a representative democratically elected by them.

In Tampa workers have been organizing and report being harassed by the company. They have set up a hotline number for help and information and are also raising money to help employees who are victims of strike-related terminations.

Noncontract employees in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philadelphia; Newark; and other cities are also organizing.

The national hotline number for noncontract employees is 1-800-344-6055. In Miami the number is (305) 444-8153.

*Pat Hunt is a laid-off Eastern Airlines noncontract employee.*



Militant/Jeff Miller

Picket line at Eastern's corporate headquarters in Miami. Strikers there have reached out to Eastern's noncontract workers. They are invited to Machinists' union meetings. Some have walked picket line and come to union hall to help out.

## Steelworkers at National to vote on modified contract

The United Steelworkers union has announced that workers at National Steel Corp. will be voting on a modified contract proposal over the next week or so, with a tally set for July 14.

Steelworkers at the company's three mills had rejected the proposed 50-month contract proposal by a 61 to 39 percent margin in a vote taken June 19. The current contract expires July 31.

Many workers opposed the pact's concessions on work rules and scheduling practices. If passed, the company would be able to schedule production on Labor Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day throughout the plant, and on Sundays in units that don't

normally operate seven days a week.

Many workers also opposed the timing of the wage increases in the proposal. The pact called for an immediate 31 cents-an-hour wage increase, with no further raises until a \$1-an-hour average wage increase in 1991 and 50-cents-an-hour average increase in 1992.

The USWA announced that the modified pact has the unanimous backing of the local union presidents, unlike the previous proposal. No details were given about changes in the pact, however. The company has reiterated that no more money will be forthcoming, indicating that the timing of wage increases remains the same.



# Eastern walkout solid in face of Lorenzo's 'reorganization'

BY SUSAN LaMONT

After 18 weeks on the picket line, the strike by 8,300 members of the Machinists union at Eastern Airlines remains solid despite the company's restart of some two hundred flights July 2.

The striking mechanics, ramp workers, aircraft cleaners, stock clerks, and facility cleaners have the backing of some 5,700 flight attendants and 3,200 pilots who are also walking the picket lines.

Over the July 2 weekend, stepped-up actions at airports in a number of cities by strikers and supporters put the walkout back into the public eye. The strengthened picket lines, drive-throughs, and rallies were in response to the company's intensified efforts to restart operations, which have been virtually paralyzed since the strike began.

The Air Line Pilots Association reports that out of 226 projected flights to 49 cities, Eastern got 211 up on July 2. Previously, there were about 80 daily flights, compared to 1,040 before the strike.

Even with super-low fares, strikers report that many of the new flights were far from full, despite the holiday weekend. Eastern claimed it filled 67 percent of the seats with some 20,000 passengers.

One result of the added flights will be significant increased losses for Eastern. As one Delta Airlines executive said, "You can't buy gas" with slashed fares. Eastern was already losing an estimated \$1.7 million a day.

The renewed flights are part of Eastern's plan to break the Machinists strike by resuming operations as a smaller, nonunion carrier, with approval of the bankruptcy court that is overseeing Eastern's affairs.

The reorganization plan was announced by Frank Lorenzo, chairman of Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp., at the end of April.

The scheme involves paring the size of

the airline by about one-third. This means selling \$1.8 billion in assets, including 40 percent of the company's planes, and having a work force of 17,000. Before the strike began March 4, Eastern employed 31,000 workers. The idea is to get out some 800 daily flights, with Atlanta as the airline's major hub.

The key weakness in Eastern's plan, however, is the strength of the strike and the widespread public support it has won. Few strikers, including pilots, have crossed

## Airline is already losing \$1.7 million a day.

the picket lines. There are only about 300 ALPA pilots now flying, including 100 or so management pilots, also members of ALPA. Additional hiring and training of pilots has brought the total to about 450.

With training going slowly, a national shortage of pilots making hiring difficult, and the strike firm, it is doubtful that the carrier can reach its projection of 1,700 pilots by the year's end.

In addition, the strikers have convinced many people not to fly Eastern.

"To reestablish Eastern as a significant, profitable carrier," the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out July 3, "[Lorenzo] needs paying customers. Lots of them. And that's a tall order for an airline that has had more well-publicized trouble lately than any other in recent times. Still fresh in travelers' minds are televised images of stranded customers, memories of \$125 million in unearned tickets, and though he objects to it, Mr. Lorenzo's reputation as a union-buster."

"Even before the strike, Eastern had spotty reliability and service," the article continued. "Now it resumes operation with

the oldest planes and the newest pilots in the sky."

ALPA points out that with 85 percent of Eastern's pilots being new hires, it will be almost impossible to meet government recommendations that new pilots be paired with experienced ones on flights. This situation will pose serious safety problems, especially when winter weather sets in.

Sales of the company's assets are proceeding, with court approval. The court has already okayed the sale of Eastern's New York-Boston-Washington, D.C. shuttle to financier Donald Trump for \$365 million and 15 planes and six engines to UAS Investment Co. for \$277.5 million. It has also approved two deals to lease three aircraft for \$2.8 million. Still pending court approval are sales of Eastern's Canadian routes, Philadelphia gates, 16 planes, and landing rights at La Guardia and National to Midway Airlines for \$206.5 million, as well as the sale of three Boeing jets for \$9 million to Express One Corp. of Dallas.

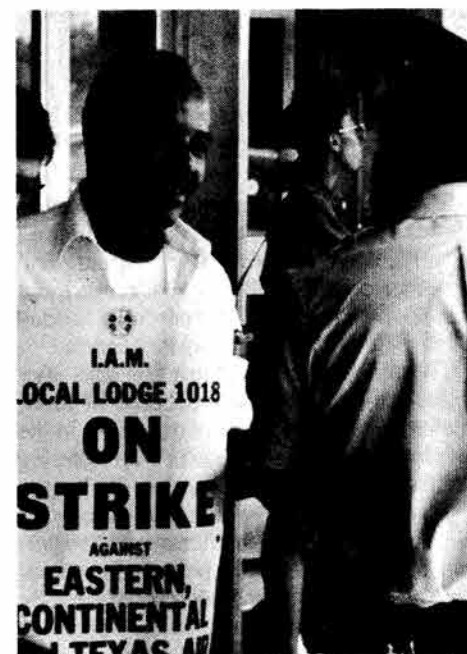
## Pilots' contract

On June 21 Eastern asked the bankruptcy court in New York to terminate the carrier's contract with ALPA and allow the company to cut pilots' wages and benefits.

Eastern wants to impose pay cuts of 10 percent for one year, suspend pension benefits for 18 months, and cancel vacations until 1990.

The carrier is also seeking millions more in permanent work rule concessions. Among the giveaways Eastern is demanding is to require pilots to fly 68 hours a month in 1990 and 60 hours a month after that. Before the strike, pilots spent about 46 hours a month in the air, the company reported.

"This is certainly not going to get pilots across the picket lines and back to work," responded an ALPA spokesman. "We've been expecting this for two years and tell-



Militant/Ernest Mailhot  
Picket line at New York's La Guardia Airport, June 30.

ing the public Frank Lorenzo is a union-buster, and here it is."

On June 26 representatives of ALPA and Eastern began meeting in negotiations ordered by the judge presiding over the bankruptcy.

The talks are aimed at providing the carrier with the cover of "good faith" bargaining. Under current bankruptcy law, Eastern is required to show that it has tried unsuccessfully to reach an agreement with ALPA before winning the court's approval to void the union's contract.

On June 27 ALPA asked the National Mediation Board to intervene in its negotiations with Eastern.

## Machinists vote at Trump

Meanwhile, several hundred International Association of Machinists members at the Trump Shuttle in New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C., voted June 29 on a proposed contract. The workers, along with flight attendants and pilots now working at Trump, had been on strike at Eastern until going to work at the shuttle June 7.

The six-month contract contained a number of union-weakening concessions, including changes in work rules, job classifications, erosion of seniority, forced overtime, contracting out, loss of paid meal breaks, and loss of vacation time.

In addition, Trump refused to hire eight workers who had been on the hire list and who were then fired by Lorenzo before and during the strike for union activity.

Although the union has not released official results of the voting, strike activists report that it passed by a substantial margin. The estimated vote at La Guardia Airport in New York was 65 for the proposal, 14 against; at National Airport in Washington, D.C., 32 for, 2 against; and at Logan International Airport in Boston, 26 for, 4 against. Some 40 union members did not vote.

# 'Tavern' workers win strike victory

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Picket lines surrounding the Tavern on the Green, a posh Manhattan eatery and scene of a bitter strike since April 30, came down June 20 after union officials and restaurant owner Warner LeRoy reached tentative agreement on a five-year contract.

Tavern on the Green is the second most profitable restaurant in the United States.

On June 21, by a large majority, strikers voted to approve the financial package. An immediate wage increase of 27 percent was announced.

The agreement especially represents advances for dishwashers and kitchen workers, who are among the lowest-paid workers, Steve Pirozzi explained. Pirozzi is a delegate for Local 6 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. Canceled health benefits were reinstated and a company-paid pension plan was initiated, he said.

Several days later, the union officialdom and LeRoy agreed to an additional 30-day negotiating period to reach an agreement on contract language. This enabled strikers

to begin returning to work July 7, the day after the departure of the last scab hires.

The agreement also recognizes Local 6, which LeRoy had been contesting in the courts. The union won a recognition election earlier in the year that was upheld by the National Labor Relations Board.

In one of his periodic lectures to the majority Black, Latino, and foreign-born work force, LeRoy had threatened that anyone who struck Tavern on the Green "would never work again in this restaurant," Pirozzi said.

During the strike, LeRoy paid for expensive advertisements in the *New York Times* begging for patronage, claiming the more than 300 strikers were "paid demonstrators" hired by a union dominated by "gangsters." Scab hires, including a handful of Local 6 strikebreakers, kept the restaurant open for its well-heeled clientele.

But the militancy of Local 6's picket lines won widespread public sympathy. The union's outreach efforts cut heavily into the restaurant's banquet trade, which repre-

sents half its income.

A decisive element in sustaining the strikers was both the support from their own union and the "solidarity of the Eastern workers, mine workers, and others" who visited the picket lines and marched with the workers, the Local 6 activist noted.

Pirozzi described the Eastern workers as "fantastic. They more than bolstered us," he said. "Here they were, on strike, we thought, twice, three times as long as us, and they're bringing us food packages!"

# Renewed flights met by actions

## Continued from front page

Eastern strikers in several parts of the country. Pittston miners present at the Newark rally were cheered. About two dozen southern Illinois miners joined strikers at the St. Louis airport. Ten Pittston miners participated in a Baltimore Machinists rally on June 30.

Two buses of United Mine Workers union members joined strikers in Pittsburgh on June 30. On July 2 a 20-car caravan of miners and other unionists returned, making a big impact by taking the protest against Eastern inside the terminal.

Actions or stepped-up picketing also took place at smaller Eastern stations. About 100 striking pilots chanted "Fly cheap, die cheap!" outside the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, airport. Toronto, Canada, Machinist union strikers relaunched their picket line and were joined by steelworkers and garment workers. They plan to keep the line up every Saturday and Sunday from now on.

In Portland, Oregon, a picket line was organized for the first Eastern flight from there since the beginning of the strike. The pickets were a pilot from Seattle, two flight attendants who live in the Portland area, and several strike supporters.

Strikers in several cities called on their supporters to drive to airports to turn in or

sign petitions supporting the boycott of Eastern and Continental. The turnout snarled traffic in St. Louis, Atlanta, Detroit, and Boston among other cities.

In Atlanta and Boston, cops used the turnout to arrest strikers. Witnesses in Atlanta reported an incident where a cop punched a driver. Others who arrived to sign petitions were yanked from their cars and arrested.

In Detroit pickets numbered 100. Several hundred unionists and other activists drove out to the airport to sign pledges.

Baltimore Machinists union locals rallied over 150 unionists from more than a dozen unions. Prior to the rally the strikers and other Machinists union members picketed Baltimore unemployment offices because Eastern workers were denied benefits.

Strikers are planning further support activities. Eight labor councils in the San Francisco area are planning a rally on July 15. Teamsters Local 70 and Joint Council 7 are centrally involved in the planning for the event.

St. Louis International Association of Machinists hall in Bridgeton, Missouri, will also be the site of a rally on July 9.

The AFL-CIO in Detroit is mailing out 5,000 tickets to affiliate unions to purchase. The tickets are for a July 23 picnic and labor solidarity event.



Militant/Jon Hillson  
Eastern strikers joined other unionists at May 17 picket to back Tavern on the Green workers.



# Nicaragua: devaluation sets off price hikes

BY SETH GALINSKY  
AND JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A sharp devaluation of the córdoba announced here June 12 set off a wave of speculative hoarding and price increases. The government action more than doubled the number of córdobas needed to buy a dollar through official channels.

The announcement came a few days after police arrested 38 people accused of black market trading in dollars. In days prior to the devaluation, black marketeers were offering 2.5 times more for the dollar than the banks.

The government, which sets prices for fuels, also announced an increase of 110 percent for gasoline and 51 percent for diesel. The fuel price hikes sparked protests among taxi and passenger truck owner-operators, who were hit by hikes in fuel prices.

Along with the devaluation, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced a wage increase of 50 percent for workers in health and education and 36 percent for other government employees.

An unspecified amount of foreign exchange will be allocated to importing perishable foods in an effort to keep prices of these products down for the next couple of months until Nicaraguan crops are harvested, the government said.

In explaining the latest measures, Ortega referred back to the deficit of \$250 million in the 1989 budget. "This deficit is almost equivalent to the sum total of our exports," noted María Rosa Renzi, general secretary of the Secretariat of Budget and Planning, in an interview here. The government hopes to

## Price rises spark protests among taxi owner-operators.

eliminate the deficit through increased foreign aid.

But so far only \$50 million has been raised to close the gap. Some \$20 million has come in cash from Sweden and Spain. The rest is from Denmark, Norway, and Finland and is to be in the form of credits for exports from those countries.

### Further cuts in gov't spending

The shortfall means government institutions will have to cut their spending to 75 percent of what was planned for this year, which was already a substantial reduction from 1988.

Ortega urged businesses not to take advantage of the devaluation to raise prices. But by the day after the government announcement, there were widespread reports of prices of basic consumer goods being upped as much as 200 percent. This took place even in the state-owned supermarkets throughout the country.

On June 15 Minister of the Economy Luis Carrión met with supermarket managers, instructing them to adjust their prices downwards. They should not, Carrión said, "lose sight of the interests of the consumer" and should create "a different style of commerce from that of the private merchants."

By June 20 supermarket supplies at the lowered prices had been depleted by an "avalanche of customers," reported the Sandinista daily *Barricada*, "among them workers who went to the supermarkets seeking to defend their salaries" from the expected future price increases.

The state-owned distributing agency, ENABAS, announced it will place more corn and rice on the market in an attempt to counter speculation and shortages.

ENABAS also says that it will supply privately owned corner stores with 14 low-priced basic necessities in exchange for an agreement with their owners to sell the items at government-set prices. No limits will be placed on quantities that can be purchased at the lower prices.

### Small businessmen protest

The price hikes also led to protests among some vendors and small businessmen. Sellers of soft drinks in Managua's biggest market, for example, shut down for several days until they forced a reduction in the cost of ice, which had skyrocketed following the devaluation. In addition, several thousand owner-operators of taxis and passenger trucks in three cities kept their vehicles off the streets.

## Gov't institutions will have to cut spending to 75 percent of 1989 budget.

"The situation was impossible," said René Chávez, secretary of the Federation of Taxi Cooperatives of Managua, an association of owner-operators that was among the drivers' organizations participating in the stoppage. "In the past, since the devaluations were gradual, somehow or other we taxi drivers managed to deal with them," he continued. "But then with the big devaluation, gasoline went up 100 percent. We couldn't manage with the fares as they existed."

Fares for transport here are set by the government. With the fuel price increases, new fares were announced. However, taxi and passenger truck owners remained dissatisfied, pointing to the drop in customers as a

result of the higher fares. Putting their vehicles on the street wasn't profitable, they said.

### Taxi owners rally

Managua taxi owners held a rally at the close of the first day of the protest. Five hours into the meeting, police broke it up, charging that demonstrators were blocking traffic. Two protesters were arrested and held briefly by police. Two police officers have been removed from duty and are under arrest for firing tear gas canisters at the crowd without authorization.

The government rejected the owner-operators' main demand that gas prices for them be held at the predevaluation price. However, most taxi and passenger trucks in Managua were back in service after the Ministry of Transport agreed to provide drivers with a small amount of gas at the old price, to grant them discounts on tires and other parts for their vehicles, to establish two shifts of service to compensate for the "surplus" of licensed taxis, to crackdown on unlicensed cabs, and to allow drivers to negotiate fares

on a passenger by passenger basis.

Many working people did not identify the taxi owners' demands with their own interests. "At night or when a woman needs to get to the hospital to give birth, they won't pick you up anyway, unless you pay an arm and a leg," said one worker at a state enterprise.

The Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), which represents the Managua Drivers Union, one of the groups participating in the protests, feels "the concerns of the taxi owners are reasonable," according to Roberto González, a CST delegate to the negotiations.

However, González criticized the methods they used. "They had not exhausted all channels," he said. "They held a demonstration and a work stoppage to attract the attention of the authorities. They didn't have a permit for the demonstration, and that put us at a disadvantage."

"They were motivated by concern over their demands," he said, but "this type of situation is always used and manipulated by the opposition groups to try to put a different face on it."

# Diarrhea continues to be main cause of infant mortality in Nicaragua



Nicaraguan children have been hit by a sharp rise in deaths caused by the acute dehydration associated with diarrhea.

BY JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "For the year 1986 diarrhea is the number one cause of mortality in general and of infant mortality nationally." So stated a comprehensive report on health care in Nicaragua published by the Ministry of Health in early 1988.

Lowering deaths due to diarrhea from 9.3 to 7 per 1,000 inhabitants is a central goal projected in the 1988-1990 health plan.

The Ministry of Health has mapped out a detailed campaign to accomplish this. However, early this year local health officials announced an epidemiological emergency, due to a sharp increase in the number of children reported to have died from diarrhea in the Managua area in the first four months of the year. A total of 147 deaths were reported, up from 119 during the same period in 1988.

The increase was especially alarming, health officials pointed out, since Nicaragua had not yet entered the rainy season, when increased infections of various types make deaths from diarrhea a more widespread problem.

### Legacy of underdevelopment

"Diarrhea is linked to our legacy of underdevelopment," Iris Montenegro said in an interview here. Montenegro is the top official of the Federation of Health Workers (FETSALUD) in the Managua region. "On top of that, the levels of education on sanitation are still too low to enable us to confront the problem in the best way."

"Diarrhea is a problem all over Nicaragua," she continued, "but Managua has its own features," which have a bearing on the

epidemic that has been declared here.

"Population density in Managua is very high," Montenegro explained. "One-third of the country's population lives here. We suffer from overcrowding. We have problems with the water. Managua has a substantial water supply, but the delivery system is extremely obsolete. The pipes date from before the 1930s."

Dr. Miguel Angel López, assistant director of the Francisco Buitrago Health Center, pointed to education as a problem. "Ninety percent of the children who die here from diarrhea come from families where the parents are illiterate or have very little schooling."

Of the eight infants that died in the Managua area from diarrhea during the first week of June, six died at home. Although treatment of diarrhea is free at government health facilities, most of these children had not been taken for treatment. Health workers credit such situations in part to lack of knowledge about the seriousness of diarrhea.

Dr. Jorge Arostegui, head of epidemiology for the Ministry of Health in the region, added, "The victims are also suffering from severe malnutrition, which makes it difficult for them to resist illness."

"Of those infants that die from diarrhea in Managua's hospitals, 80 percent were underweight at birth," stated Arostegui, pointing to this as a sign that "the nutritional state of our children has been deteriorating."

### Early treatment key

Referring to Nicaragua's economic difficulties, the epidemiologist said, "Even if

there are no modifications in the conditions of sanitation or nutrition, it is possible to lower the risk of death by increasing the population's chance to come into contact with the health system." Then, he continued, steps can more easily be taken to educate against practices that can exacerbate the malnutrition and dehydration accompanying diarrhea that lead to fatalities.

In most cases, fatalities can be prevented through administering sterile salt and sugar solutions to the victim. Health facilities here have oral rehydration units (UROs) where mother and child stay, receiving therapy until the baby's condition has stabilized.

With the epidemic, UROs in Managua were reactivated in existing health facilities, and the number of neighborhood-based health posts has been increased. Each of these has its URO. The goal is to have all UROs functioning 24 hours a day and to have a doctor at each post.

"In April and May we reduced the death rate from diarrhea by 50 percent in our district," reported López. "Now every child who comes into the health center for treatment for any condition is referred to the URO if the child has diarrhea. Before the alert was declared, we only referred 20 to 30 percent of them."

### In Las Torres

Las Torres is one of the Managua neighborhoods hardest hit by the diarrhea epidemic. Established 20 years ago on the shores of the polluted Lake Xolotlán, it is home to some 4,800 families. There are only two sources of chlorinated water in the barrio and no sewage system. Some 90 families do not even have latrines, according to Juan Carlos Vega, a community activist in the area.

"We have urged people not to drink water from their wells," Vega said, because of contamination from the lake. But it is impossible to know how widely the advice is being followed, he said, because of the distances involved in carrying supplies of drinking water to people's homes.

"We have had a good response to educational work we've done on a house-to-house basis," he continued, but there are many "inexperienced mothers" in his opinion — many who are only 15 years old and are single.

"There is a problem with local industry too," Vega reported. Tecnica, a state-owned textile plant located in the barrio, has a broken sewage pipe that empties into the residential area, he said.

A new-looking building housing a health post is only open during the day, Vega reported. And a doctor is only on duty there four and a half hours a day. However, during the time this reporter was in the neighborhood, infants who arrived at the post were given priority treatment by the nurse's aide, who was the only worker at the facility.

Because of the epidemic in this barrio, two brigades of students have been sent in to help,

Continued on Page 12



# Thomas Sankara on using French language

The following message by Thomas Sankara was presented on his behalf to the First Summit Meeting of French-Speakers in Paris on Feb. 17, 1986. Sankara was president of Burkina Faso's revolutionary government until he was assassinated on Oct. 15, 1987, during a coup. This is the first time Sankara's message appears in English. The translation is by the *Militant*.

We are Francophones because of the colonial experience, even though at home only 10 percent of the Burkinabè speak French. We publicly state and feel in our bones that there are two preconditions for our declaring ourselves part of the French-speaking world: first that the French language is simply a means to express our realities; and second, that like any language, French must open itself up to experience the sociological and historical aspects of its destiny.

For us the French language was initially the language of the colonizer, the cultural and ideological vehicle par excellence of foreign and imperialist domination.

But later we were able to use this language to gain access to mastering the dialectical method of analyzing the phenomenon of imperialism, and even to be able to organize ourselves politically to struggle and win.

Today the Burkinabè people and their political leadership — the National Council of

**French, once vehicle of the colonizer, is now tool to analyze imperialism.**

the Revolution — use the French language in Burkina no longer as the carrier of some type of cultural alienation, but rather as a means to communicate with other peoples.

Our presence at this conference is justified by the fact that there are — in the view of the National Council of the Revolution — two French languages: the French language spoken by the French in France itself, and the French language spoken on the five continents.

Our participation aims to contribute to enriching this universalized French and to assess the extent to which the French language draws us closer to others. And that is why I want to very sincerely thank the French authorities for this successful initiative.

## French is an intermediary

Through the intermediary of the French language we, with other African brothers, analyze our respective situations and seek to coordinate our efforts for common struggles.

Through the intermediary of the French language we have drawn close to the struggle of the Vietnamese people and are better able to understand the cry of the people of New Caledonia.

Through the French language we discover the riches of European culture and defend the rights of our emigrant workers.

Through the intermediary of the French language we read the great educators of the proletariat and all those who have, in a utopian or scientific manner, placed their pens at the service of the class struggle.

Finally, it is in French that we sing the "Internationale," the anthem of the oppressed, of the "wretched of the earth."

Given this universality of the French language, we feel that we must use this language to further our militant internationalism because we firmly believe in unity among the peoples, unity born of their shared conviction that they all suffer from the same exploitation and same oppression, whatever social forms or guises it takes at any particular time.

## French must accept other languages

That is why we feel that if the French language wants to serve the ideas of 1789 rather than those of the colonial expeditions, it must accept other languages as expressions of the perceptions of other peoples.

In accepting other peoples, the French language must accept idioms and concepts that the French people have been unable to experience themselves due to the realities of France's place in the world.

Who, through vanity and false pride, would tie themselves up in fine-spun turns of phrase to express in French such words as Islam and *Baraka*, when the Arabic language expresses these realities better than any other? Or take the *pianissimo*, a sweet-sounding musical expression from the other side of the Piedmont. Or take the word *apartheid*, which with Shakespearean richness an unperfidious Albion exports to France.

Refusing to incorporate the languages of others into French means erecting barriers of cultural chauvinism, because we should not forget that other languages have adopted untranslatable words from French as their own. For example, English, in fair play has adopted the word *champagne* from aristocratic and bourgeois French. German squarely draws the French word *arrangements* into its realpolitik without any pretense.

Finally, take the examples of Peulh, Mooré, Bantu, Wolof, and many other African languages, which have — any anger aside — assimilated oppressive and exploitative French terms such as *impôts* (taxes), *corvées* (forced labor), and prison.

This diversity brings us together in the Francophone family. We make diversity rhyme with the words amity and fraternity.

Refusing to incorporate from other languages means ignoring the origin and history of one's own language. Every language is the result of several others. And this is even more



Thomas Sankara, leader of the West African country of Burkina Faso 1983-87. Militant/Ernest Harsch

the case today due to the cultural permeability created by the powerful communications media in these modern times.

Finally, rejecting other languages means having a frozen attitude that runs contrary to progress and stems from an ideology inspired by reactionary ideas.

Burkina Faso opens itself to other peoples

and expects to even further enrich itself from the culture of others. Our use of French takes place in the context of our conviction that we are heading toward a universal civilization that will lead us toward a universal language.

*For the true progress of humanity! Forward!*

*Homeland or death, we will triumph!*

## Book of Sankara speeches celebrated in Australia

BY CYNTHIA MURRAY

SYDNEY, Australia — "Sankara did his duty and we have to do ours," declared David Gakunzi. "For Sankara not to have died in vain, we must keep his words alive."

Gakunzi, who is a leader of the Thomas Sankara International Association and editor of *Coumbite*, a French-language magazine published by Africans in Paris, gave the keynote address at a meeting here to celebrate the publication of the book *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. It is a collection of writings and speeches by the Burkinabè revolutionary leader published by Pathfinder.

"What was important for Sankara was to politicize the people," Gakunzi explained. "Sankara was an internationalist and a Marxist, otherwise we would not be launching this book in other countries."

Along with Gakunzi, the panel of speakers included Ndumiso Ntshinga, assistant representative of the Australian and Pacific Mission of the African National Congress of South Africa, and Oscar Cortez, information officer for the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador. Catharina Tirsén from Sweden spoke representing Pathfinder, and greetings were read from Ali Kazak of the Palestine Information Office in Australia's capital, Canberra, and from U.S. frame-up victim, Mark Curtis.

All the speakers at this celebratory meeting emphasized that Sankara was an internationalist leader of action. In the struggles against apartheid, neocolonialism, and the Third World foreign debt, Ntshinga pointed out, Sankara emphasized the mobilization of the masses around the world rather than diplomatic conferences or "or tea with [French President] Mitterrand. His heart was with the ordinary peasants and toilers of the earth."

Tirsén linked the devastating crisis of Africa and the Third World to the creeping crisis in the imperialist countries, which manifests itself in worsening social conditions, such as homelessness and unemployment.

Tirsén also stressed the importance Sankara placed on the role of women in the Burkina Faso revolution.

Cortez delivered fraternal revolutionary greetings from the FMLN to the meeting. "El Salvador shares common interests and close ties with the Burkinabè people," he said. "Despite cultural and language difficulties, all fighters can learn from the Sankara book."

## Native American heroes to be painted on Pathfinder mural

BY MICHAEL MAGGI

MINNEAPOLIS — A cultural benefit held here June 23 capped an eight-day tour of the Twin Cities by South African artist Dumile Feni and Pathfinder mural representative Mark Severs.

The benefit, held on behalf of the Pathfinder Mural Project, featured a performance by the Minnesota New Song Movement musicians. It was chaired by Native American filmmaker Chris Spotted Eagle and Susanne Derby of the Pathfinder Bookstore in St. Paul.

The six-story mural being painted on the south wall of the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan features portraits of prominent revolutionary and working-class leaders whose works have been published by Pathfinder. Feni painted a portrait of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela on the mural last fall.

Spotted Eagle told the 60 participants at the benefit that he and other artists from the Twin Cities would be going to New York in August to paint on the mural. They also plan to help raise funds for the project.

## Native American filmmaker

Spotted Eagle has produced two award-winning documentary films, *Sacred Lands* and *Great Spirit Within the Hole*. The first is about the fight against government efforts to deny Native Americans access to tribal lands. The second deals with the racist treatment of Native Americans by the courts and prison system.

In New York, Spotted Eagle plans to produce a documentary on the Pathfinder mural from some 20 hours of video footage taken since the project began nearly two years ago.

Prominent Native American figures, including Sitting Bull and Geronimo, will be painted on the mural by artists from the Twin Cities. Contemporary fighters such as Anna Mae Aquash, who was assassinated at Pine Ridge in 1976, will be portrayed as well. Her body was desecrated by FBI agents.

Seitu Kenneth Jones, a prominent

painter, sculptor, and muralist, will add a portrait to the mural of W.E.B. Du Bois, who wrote *Black Reconstruction*, among many other books, and was a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Pathfinder published the two-volume *W.E.B. Du Bois Speaks*.

## Fight for Black rights

Feni and Severs' tour here began June 17 at the annual Juneteenth celebration held in the Black community. The event commemorates the emancipation of Black slaves in the United States in the 1860s during the Civil War. The mural project was an official part of the program. A photographic slide presentation and talk were given by Feni and Severs.

There was considerable interest in books by and about Malcolm X at a Pathfinder literature table, which remained up all day. Many other groups and organizations also had tables with books of speeches by Malcolm X, as well as T-shirts and buttons with his likeness on them.

Pathfinder is publishing a new book this month with four of Malcolm X's last speeches, never before printed. A portrait of Malcolm X will also be featured in the Pathfinder mural.

University of Minnesota professor August Nimtz hosted a fund-raising meeting at his home attended by other professors and students from half a dozen African countries. Another 30 people attended a fundraiser at the home of Del and Carol Rayson. Beatrice Knaeble hosted a meeting of a dozen people, and five auto workers at the St. Paul Ford plant came to another meeting with Feni and Severs.

Feni and Severs also met with Michael Garcia, director of COMPAS, an organization formed out of struggles in the 1970s to gain funding and recognition for Chicano, Native American, and Afro-American artists.

More than \$1,000 was raised during the tour as part of the \$125,000 needed to complete work on the mural.



# Stream of protests challenge book banning by Blaize government in Grenada

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

Is it a crime to hear what Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Thomas Sankara, and Don Rojas have to say?

Have the Grenadian people no right to read works by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin — books translated into many languages in hundreds of millions of copies?

Do the writings of Malcolm X threaten the "public interest"?

Grenadian Prime Minister Herbert Blaize says the answer to all these questions is yes.

The Grenadian government has issued a decree banning 86 books published or distributed by Pathfinder Press of New York.

Dusting off a 1951 law imposed under British colonial rule, Blaize has told the Grenadian people that government censors will determine what political literature they can and cannot read.

The people of Grenada and the region think differently, however.

In this year's May Day celebration in Grenada, a rally of 5,000 that demanded wage increases and jobs, the head of the country's trade union federation denounced the decree.

Anselm De Bourg, president of the Trade Union Council, condemned the censorship as a "barbaric act" that was "yet another attempt to muzzle the minds of our people and drive us into further backwardness."

"We must insist," he told the rally, "that as a people we have access to all information available regardless of the source. Only then will we be able to decide for ourselves the best reading material applicable to our needs."

The May Day rally "had quite an impact," Kendrick Radix said in a telephone interview. It made clear that "the whole question of the right to read is a serious question for workers."

## Suit against banning

Radix is the former attorney general of Grenada under the People's Revolutionary Government headed by Maurice Bishop. He has filed suit in Grenada's High Court of Justice against the book ban.

The suit was filed on behalf of Terry Marryshow, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, who had ordered the books that were first confiscated and later banned.

The legal action points out that the book-banning decree violates several sections of Grenada's 1973 constitution. Furthermore, the 1951 law on which it was based was repealed by the revolutionary government.

Hearings on the suit, originally scheduled to be held April 7, have been twice postponed at the request of government lawyers. At present no date has yet been set.

"Speed is not the most renowned quality of the courts here," Radix said, especially in cases that involve fundamental issues of democratic rights.

But while the courts try to bury the case, a steady stream of protests refuse to let the Blaize government off the hook.

## 'Heights of absurdity'

A recent editorial in the Kingston, Jamaica, daily *Jamaica Record* declared the Blaize cabinet had reached "the heights of absurdity with the banning of certain books which they considered subversive."

Keith Mitchell, the head of Blaize's own New National Party, has stated publicly that he does not support the banning of books.

The Human Rights Association in the nearby island of St. Vincent has gone on record urging Blaize to "repeal any law in Grenada which purports to prevent or restrict Grenadians the right of reading widely." The association added:

"We are pleased to say that in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, your neighbour sister State, we have already repealed all the old colonial and oppressive laws regarding the importation of books, and literature, in general."

In the United States, 15 members of the Senate and 74 members of the House of Representatives have issued a protest to the Grenadian embassy against the book banning.

We "urge your government," the lawmakers said, "to repeal this ban on publications entering Grenada, to release all confiscated materials immediately, and to cease the con-

fiscation of books entering into Grenada in the future."

The U.S. legislators are members of the Congressional Committee to Support Writers and Journalists, an organization of Republican and Democratic lawmakers chaired by senators Bob Graham of Florida and Mark Hatfield of Oregon, and by representatives William Green of New York and John Lewis of Atlanta.

They join a growing number of prominent individuals and organizations that have condemned the censorship decree.

Those issuing protests include members of the British, Canadian, and Australian parliaments, the PEN American Center writers' organization, Oilfields Workers' Trade Union of Trinidad, Caribbean Studies Association, the National Lawyers Guild, exiled South African poet Dennis Brutus, and the Rev. Allan Kirton, general secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches.

"The issue is causing tremendous embarrassment for the government," said attorney Radix, but they are still "stonewalling" on the decree.

In a national radio broadcast the weekend of June 10, Blaize acknowledged that the book ban had become an international issue but declared his government's intention to keep it in effect.

More protests are needed. Please send messages to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, Botanical Gardens, St. George's, Grenada. Please send copies to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

## Jailed Israeli journalists' hunger strike demands end to victimization

BY HARRY RING

Further victimization of three Israeli journalists jailed for their views has evoked new protest in Israel and other countries.

In June Yacov Ben Efrat, Assaf Adiv and Michal Schwartz — editors of *Derech Hanitzotz* (Way of the Spark) — held a three-day hunger strike. They were protesting the denial of an early "good behavior" release Schwartz and Adiv had qualified for. Also, Adiv and Ben Efrat, now being held in isolation, are demanding they be transferred to a unit with other "security" (political) prisoners. Schwartz is in a women's prison with no other political prisoners. Authorities rejected her request to be transferred to a prison where all other women political prisoners are held.

In the prison where Ben Efrat and Adiv are, 40 Palestinian security prisoners joined the last day of the hunger strike. They declared their solidarity with the two and demanded of the prison director that they be transferred to the Palestinians' unit.

Relatives of Ben Efrat and Adiv held a one-day hunger strike in front of the prison. Various delegations arrived during the day to register their support. Among these were a group of Arabs from the Golan Heights, the area of Syria annexed by Israel.

On the third day of the hunger strike, two members of the Israeli parliament visited Ben Efrat and Adiv. They were Mohammad Miari of the Progressive List for Peace, and Abd al-Wahab Darawash of the Arab Democratic Party.

In a June 20 advertisement in *Haretz*, a major Israeli daily, more than 100 Israeli notables supported the demand to transfer the prisoners to the company of political prisoners and to end the discrimination against them.

A similar protest was made in a cable signed by political and academic figures in the United States and six European countries.

The hunger strike and the solidarity action of relatives, supporters, and prisoners, was reported by the major Israeli media. On the last day of the hunger strike, the commissioner of police met with relatives of the prisoners. He refused to meet the demand for transferring the prisoners, declaring he did not want any mutual influence between them and Palestinian political prisoners.

*Derech Hanitzotz*, which supports the

Palestinian liberation struggle, was shut down last year and four of its editors charged with having contact with a "foreign agent" and membership in a "terrorist" organization, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Then, in a partial retreat, the government entered into a plea bargain agreement in which the four pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of membership in the political wing of the Democratic Front and received shorter prison terms.

Ben Efrat was given a 30-month sentence and Adiv and Schwartz, 18 months. Roni Ben Efrat, a fourth defendant, was sentenced to nine months, the time she had already been in prison, and released. With time off for good behavior, Schwartz and Adiv should have been released last month.

Letters and telegrams of protest at their treatment should be sent to Commissioner Shaul Levi, Director of Prison Services, Jerusalem, Israel, with copies to P.O. Box 1575, Jerusalem.

### IMPORTATION OF PUBLICATIONS (PROHIBITION)

ORDER, 1989.

**2. Importation Prohibited.** The importation into the State of any past, present or future issue of any of the publications mentioned in the Schedule to this Order (whether under the same or a different title and whether emanating from the same or a different source) in place of any publication as mentioned is hereby prohibited.

### SCHEDULE

The following publications published by the Pathfinder Press of 410 West Street, New York, U.S.A.:-

The Communist Manifesto, Marx/Engels, pamphlet  
Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods, Castro, pamphlet  
Fidel Castro at the U.N., pamphlet  
Lenin as Election Campaign Manager, Jenness, pamphlet

Speeches at Party Congresses, Lenin, cloth  
State And Revolution, Lenin, paper  
Two Tactics of Social Democracy, Lenin, paper  
Wage Labor & Capital/Value Price & Profit, Marx, paper  
The Wages System, Engels, pamphlet

Made this 11th day of April, 1989.

MARJORIE BUDHOO  
Secretary to the Cabinet.

Above is a copy of the Grenadian government's order banning 86 titles published and distributed by Pathfinder Press of New York. The banning order includes the speeches and writings of Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, the Sandinista leaders of Nicaragua, Marx, Lenin, and others.

## Subscribe to 'Perspectiva Mundial' 'PM' on Eastern strike

As a reader of the *Militant* you are familiar with our weekly coverage of the struggles of working people around the world.

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In its July-August issue, PM carries an article on the strike by the 17,000 workers at Eastern Airlines. It discusses the need for labor solidarity as well as the stakes in this battle.

PM also features a speech by John Gaige, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, on the frame-up of Curtis. Gaige explains why this case is at the heart of the changes taking place among working people today.



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# Abortion rights dealt blow

Continued from front page  
lated and not have the right to choose."

Joan Gibbs, a spokesperson for the Center for Constitutional Rights, warned that the ruling would also "justify state regulations such as forcing women to have Caesarean sections and expensive and unnecessary tests to determine viability, possible criminal prosecutions for drug use, reducing access to such contraceptive methods as the IUD [intrauterine device], and discrimination in the workplace."

President George Bush praised the decision in the Missouri case in a July 3 statement. He reiterated his backing for a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life.

"It's opening the door," said Randall Terry of the July 3 ruling. Terry heads Operation Rescue, which has staged blockades and other assaults on clinics where abortions are performed. "It's inviting states to introduce any kind of legislation they want. Let's take them up on their offer."

Missouri Gov. John Ashcroft said he would establish a task force to develop proposals for further state legislation against abortion.

Among other states where an all-out push to adopt stringent antiabortion legislation is likely now are Louisiana, Utah, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Georgia.

The 5-4 majority in the case *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* upheld a Missouri law that bars performing abortions in public hospitals or any publicly owned or funded facility; forbids public employees acting as such, including doctors and nurses, from performing in or assisting abortions unless necessary to save a woman's life; and requires that medical tests be performed on any woman seeking an abortion who is thought to be at least 20 weeks pregnant in order to assess viability of the fetus.

## 'Rights of unborn'

The majority also left standing a preamble to the law holding that "the life of each human being begins at conception." The preamble asserts that fetuses, which it terms "unborn children," have "protectable interests in life, health, and well-being" and requires that state laws be interpreted to provide them with "all the rights, privileges, and immunities available to other persons, citizens of this state."

The provisions of the Missouri law had been held unconstitutional by a federal appeals court. The Supreme Court reversed this ruling.

The court also agreed to review this fall cases involving an Illinois measure requiring that abortions be performed in facilities meeting the legal standards required of hospital operating rooms; a Minnesota law requiring that both parents be notified before a minor can obtain an abortion; and an Ohio law requiring notification of one parent.

The Supreme Court delayed the announcement of its ruling in *Webster* until three days after what had originally been scheduled to be the last day of its session.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, and Byron White made up the court majority. Harry Blackmun, William Brennan, Thurgood Marshall, and John Paul Stevens dissented.

One part of the opinion delivered by Rehnquist proposed to "modify and narrow" *Roe v. Wade*. He rejected the holding of the 1973 decision that state governments must restrict abortions in order to protect fetuses except in the last three months of pregnancy.

He argued instead that states may adopt any regulation that "permissibly furthers the State's interest in protecting potential human life" at any time during pregnancy. He did not set any limit to what was "permissible" in restricting abortions.

Rehnquist held that it was not necessary, given the issues in the Missouri case, to go further than this at present in reversing *Roe v. Wade*.

Rehnquist's direct attack on *Roe* did not win a majority, however, as this part of his decision was endorsed only by Kennedy and White. Sandra Day O'Connor, who voted to uphold the Missouri restrictions, declined to state her views on this.

While indicating that she questioned what she termed the "framework" of the 1973 ruling, O'Connor said that in a future case, "there will be time enough to re-examine *Roe* and to do so carefully."

Harry Blackmun, in his dissent, described Rehnquist's opinion as "an implicit invitation to every state to enact more and more restrictive abortion laws, and to assert their interest in potential life as of the moment of conception."

Blackmun noted that the majority had not even mentioned the right of privacy — the legal doctrine that guided the seven-judge majority in the *Roe* case.

John Paul Stevens, who dissented along with Blackmun, wrote that the preamble to the Missouri law represented a theological judgment on when life begins. He termed the preamble a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution, barring the establishment of state religion or religious beliefs.

Stevens noted that upholding the preamble placed a question over the right to use such contraceptives as the IUD and "morning after" pill, which prevent implantation of a fertilized egg in a woman's uterus.

## 'Streets full of demonstrators'

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote a separate opinion that upheld the antiabortion laws while calling for overturning *Roe v. Wade* immediately. "We can now look forward to at least another term," he complained, "with carts full of mail from the public, and streets full of demonstrators, urging us — their unelected and life-tenured judges who have been awarded those extraordinary, undemocratic characteristics precisely in order that we might follow the law despite the popular will — to follow the popular will."

While making no mention of the constitutional right to privacy, the court majority nonetheless carried out a major attack on the expanded recognition of this right by the courts, of which the *Roe v. Wade* ruling was a part. These gains resulted from victories that working people and their allies won in big social struggles over the past 35 years. The right to privacy signifies that there are areas of people's lives — from political activity to sexual behavior — over which the government has no control and into which it cannot pry.

The 1973 decision legalizing abortions came in the immediate aftermath of the social upheaval wrought by the civil rights movement, which began shaking U.S. society after World War II and continued throughout the 1960s.

The significant extension of democratic rights that the civil rights fighters won by smashing the system of legal racial segregation

based in the southern states strengthened all other fights for democratic rights.

## Rulings on privacy

In 1958 the Supreme Court ruled that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People could not be required to provide a list of its members to the government of Alabama as this would violate the members' right to privacy.

In the 1965 case *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the Supreme Court held that the state cannot make the use of contraceptives by married persons a crime, and thus cannot punish someone who provides them with contraceptives or with information concerning their use.

The emergence of a women's rights struggle in the late 1960s, inspired by the victories of the civil rights movement and of the growing role of women in the work force, led to increased opposition to antiabortion laws. These laws forced thousands of women to obtain illegal abortions under circumstances that threatened their health, and at the risk of prosecution and imprisonment.

As a national protest movement against antiabortion laws was just beginning to take form, the court by a vote of 7 to 2 on Jan. 22, 1973, threw out the antiabortion laws in Texas and Georgia and, effectively, in 44 other states. Rehnquist and White dissented.

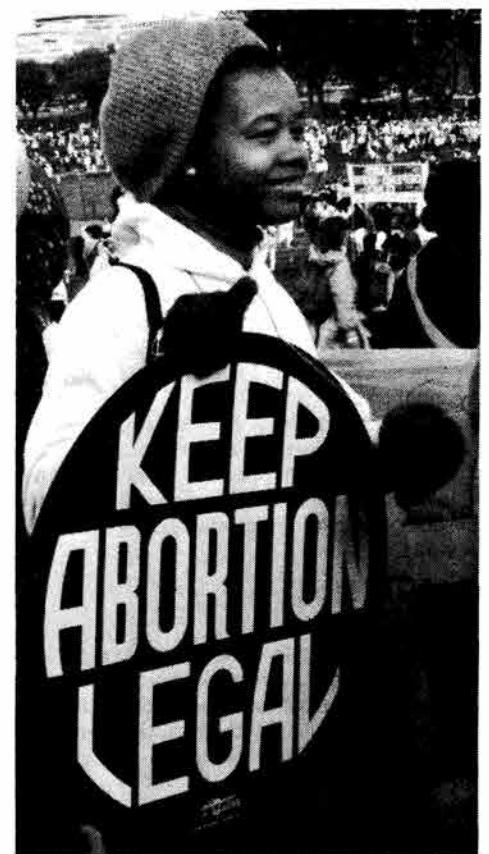
The majority opinion, written by Blackmun, stated that "a right of personal privacy, or a guarantee of certain areas or zones of privacy, does exist under the Constitution."

"This right of privacy," the ruling held, "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy. The detriment that the State would impose upon the pregnant woman by denying this choice altogether is apparent."

Under the standard established in *Roe v. Wade*, the right to have an abortion was not unrestricted. State governments, the majority held, "may properly assert important interests in safeguarding health, in maintaining medical standards, and in protecting potential life."

After the first three months of pregnancy, during which time, Blackmun pointed out, "mortality in abortion is less than mortality in normal childbirth," the state may intervene to protect the health of the woman by licensing and procedural rules.

In the last 10 weeks of pregnancy, he ruled, when the fetus "presumably has the capability of life outside the mother's womb," the



Militant/Selva Nebbia  
Participant in April 9 march on Washington.

state "may go so far as to proscribe abortion during that period except when it is necessary to preserve the life and health of the mother."

In 1976 bipartisan majorities in the U.S. Congress adopted a measure barring the use of federal Medicaid payments to finance abortions except where the woman's life was in danger, or where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

Thirty-seven states have now either banned or never permitted public funding of abortions.

Nonetheless, over the last decade, 1.5 million women have obtained legal abortions each year. Most have been working women, and a majority were from families with annual incomes under \$25,000 per year.

The latest court ruling will further slash the availability of abortion, however. The Missouri legislation effectively makes it impossible to obtain an abortion in a hospital in the state.

The Truman Medical Center in Kansas City, which has performed nearly all hospital abortions in Missouri, will no longer be able to do so. Although Truman is a private hospital, it was built on land leased from the state and thus constitutes a "public facility" under the law.

## Protests across U.S. hit court ruling

BY RONI McCANN

Prochoice supporters anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's ruling on abortion rights turned out for protests around the country within hours upon hearing the news of the high court decision on July 3.

"I don't feel like celebrating Independence Day," declared Helen Greico, executive director of the San Francisco National Organization for Women, to a cheering crowd in San Francisco of more than 2,000. "This is an outrage!"

At the rally it was announced that the board of supervisors immediately passed a resolution condemning the decision and calling for "an emergency response to the attacks on women's health and autonomy."

In New York City 5,000 defenders of choice marched on July 5 as onlookers waved and expressed support. Another 1,000 joined the marchers for a rally afterwards in Union Square.

In Boston a picket line of 2,000 starting in front of the Federal Courthouse on July 3 grew to a rally of 4,000 at government buildings nearby. The next day another 5,000 or more rallied again around the theme of redoubling efforts to defend abortion rights.

In an action built on less than a week's notice, 2,000 choice activists rallied in Portland, Oregon, on July 4.

Prochoice activists numbering close to 500 held actions in both Pittsburgh and St. Louis following the decision.

In St. Louis the founder and chairwoman of Reproductive Health Services, the clinic that challenged a 1986 Missouri law restricting access to abortion, spoke to the crowd. "The government has declared war on privacy," said Judith Widdicombe, "This

issue will become the Vietnam of the 1990s."

Since the ruling the two public hospitals in Missouri — in Kansas City and Columbia — have barred their doctors from performing abortions. An emergency action of 200 was held in Kansas City on July 3.

Los Angeles protesters conducted an all-night vigil followed by an early morning rally of 250 on July 4.

People in passing cars honked horns and gave the thumbs-up sign in support of prochoice activists in Atlanta on July 4. Some 350 activists there marched to the capitol in an overwhelmingly young and spirited action called by the Coalition Opposed to Operation Rescue.

## Women coal miners' conference held

Continued from back page

customs authorities at the St. Louis airport when she returned from Britain and was on her way to the Illinois conference. They searched her belongings and body extensively, and questioned her about her activities in the labor and civil rights movements.

The conference passed a resolution condemning and protesting the harassment of Parnell.

At the closing plenary, Carol Davis read greetings sent by the coordinator of the national miners' union of Nicaragua.

Josefina Otero, a striking Eastern worker from Philadelphia, spoke at several workshops about the strike and its importance. She received a warm welcome from the conference participants.

The gathering approved a resolution pledging to "commit ourselves to stop [Texas Air Chairman] Lorenzo's union-

busting at Eastern Airlines. We pledge to boycott Continental and Eastern until the strike is won."

Officials and members of the National Education Association, who were in Washington, D.C., for their national convention, turned out for a picket line of more than 200 in that city on July 4.

Choice activists in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Detroit reported actions there of more than 300 denouncing the Supreme Court decision.

In Houston 200 prochoice pickets circled in front of the federal building in an action well covered by the local press.

choice activists in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Detroit reported actions there of more than 300 denouncing the Supreme Court decision.

## Kentucky miners

A letter written by Donnie Thornsby to the conference was distributed. Thornsby, president of UMW Local 2496 in Kentucky, is currently serving a 40-year sentence on trumped-up charges stemming from the death of a scab coal hauler during the 1984-85 strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. Two other miners, David Thornsby and Arnold Heightland, are in jail on similar charges stemming from the same incident. The conference adopted a resolution reaffirming its support for the jailed Kentucky miners.

The meeting ended with a field trip to the graves of Mother Jones and John L. Lewis, who served as president of the UMW from 1919 to 1960.



## ARIZONA

### Phoenix

**Speakout Against FBI Infiltration of Environmental Groups and Arrest of Earth First! Activists.** Speakers: Myron Scott, Coalition for Responsible Energy Education; Alex King, Rain Forest Action Group; Marty Skagin, Coalition Against Apartheid; Danny Booher, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

**Supreme Court Deals Blows to Affirmative Action and Democratic Rights.** Sat., July 15, 7 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

## CALIFORNIA

### Berkeley

**Look at My People How They Struggle.** A film on participation of women in the Salvadoran popular movement. Sun., July 9, 7:30 p.m. La Peña, 3105 Shattuck. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: El Salvador Media Project. For more information call (415) 824-6695.

### San Francisco

**Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Live television transmission from Nicaragua of President Daniel Ortega. Dance to salsa sounds and music by The Looters, with special guests Rafael Manriquez, Steven Herrick, Lichi Fuentes, Barbara Dane, Pete Sears, and Mimi Fariña. Sat., July 22, 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Longshore Hall, 400 North Point (near Fisherman's Wharf). Donation: \$12, \$5 low income. Proceeds to aid Nicaragua. (Contribute a day's wage to the "Day's Wage for 10 Years of Freedom" campaign and get in free.) Sponsors: Barricada International Support Group; Centro Cultural Nicaragüense; Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Central America, Palo Alto; Committee for Health Rights in Central America; others. For more information call (415) 626-8053 or (408) 288-6678.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Coal Miners' Strike Spreads.** Speaker: Jeff Miller, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Association of Machinists on strike against Eastern. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**El Salvador: Victory on the Horizon.** Chicago Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador's 8th annual dinner. Speaker: Ramón Cardona, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador. Sat., July 15. Social hour 5 p.m.; dinner 6 p.m. Bethany United Church of Christ, 4250 N Paulina St. Donation: \$10, \$15 at the door. For more information call (312) 227-2720.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Big Mountain: Native American Fight for Human Rights.** A slideshow presentation by Bob Livesey, Veterans for Peace coordinator. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**The Eastern Strike: The Challenges Ahead.**

Speaker: Ernest Mailhot, member Eastern strike committee, International Association of Machinists Local 1018, La Guardia Airport, New York. Sun., July 9, noon. Rodeway Inn, 8230 Merriman (I-94 at airport), Romulus. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**Miners' Strike Battle Mounts in Appalachia.** Speaker: Steve Marshall, *Militant* correspondent, member United Transportation Union Local 1435. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 16, 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

### Rochester

**Defend Mark Curtis.** Speakers: Hazel Zimmerman, secretary Mark Curtis Defense Committee; Walt King, member United Auto Workers Local 2125; Naomi Muggli, member Aztec Club of Albert Lea; Dale Chidester, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 22, 7 p.m. Walters Library of Assisi Heights Convent, Assisi Heights. Sponsor: Friends of Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

### St. Paul

**Support the Eastern Strikers.** The Coalition of Labor Union Women is sponsoring a morning at the picket line at Twin Cities International Airport in support of Eastern strikers. Sat., July 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information call (612) 227-7647.

## MISSOURI

### Kansas City

**Cancel the Third World Debt.** Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., July 16, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

**Defend Affirmative Action.** A panel discussion. Sun., July 23, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

## NEBRASKA

### Omaha

**Grenada and the Crisis in the Caribbean.** Speaker: August Nimitz, Socialist Workers Party, political science professor, University of Minnesota. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The Eastern Workers and the Miners on Strike: A Fight for All Working People.** Speaker: Susan LaMont, *Militant* staff writer covering the strike at Eastern Airlines; others to be announced. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

**Cuba Today: A Report by Recent Visitors.** Panel of participants in recently returned 20th anniversary Venceremos Brigade tour of Cuba. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Reception for Three Artists from the South Pacific.** Meet Fatu Feu'u, Samoan artist; Sally

# Defend Abortion: A Woman's Fundamental Right

Militant Labor Forums on recent Supreme Court decision.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

Panel of activists. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## MISSOURI

### Kansas City

Speakers: Elizabeth Applebaum, president Kansas City chapter National Organization for Women; Nell Thomas of National Abortion Rights Action League; Dianelle Saunders, Pink Triangle; representative So-

cialist Workers Party. Sun., July 9, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

A discussion of the recent Supreme Court decisions on abortion and affirmative action. Speakers: Vivian Sahner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for comptroller, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Griffin, political painter and muralist; John Walsh, portraitist and muralist of Maori ancestry. Talk and slideshow, benefit for the Pathfinder Mural Project. Fri., July 7, 7-9 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project, Militant Labor Forum, Ventana. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

### Manhattan

**Cuba Today.** Panel discussion with members of the 20th contingent of the Venceremos Brigade. Sun., July 9, 4 p.m. 593 Columbus Ave. (at 88th St.). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: N.Y. Venceremos Brigade.

**Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speaker: James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., July 15, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave., 2nd floor. For more information call (212) 675-6740 or (718) 398-6983.

**Events Celebrating Nicaraguan Revolution's 10th Anniversary.** 1. Brooklyn Sister City Project parade. Sat., July 15. Assemble 10 a.m. at Hanson Pl. and Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn. March to Prospect Park. 2. Casa Nicaragua and Nicaragua Network dance. Sat., July 15, 9 p.m. Local 1199, 310 W 43 St., Manhattan. 3. Television address by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Sat., July 22, 9 p.m. to midnight. Hunter College, Lexington Ave. at 68th St. Donation: \$10. For more information call (212) 769-4293 or 674-9499.

## UTAH

### Price

**Labor Fights Back: Eastern Strikers Plan Protest and Miners' Strike Spreads.** Speakers: Bruce Quigley, member Air Line Pilots Association, striking Eastern airline pilot; Bob Hill, Socialist Workers Party, member International

Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Sun., July 9, 1 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Capitalism in Crisis: A Working-Class Approach to Confront the Economic and Social Crisis.** Speakers: Robbie Scherr, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; Malik Miah, National Committee SWP, airline worker and member International Association of Machinists; Dan Fein, recently returned from *Militant* team in coalfields of Appalachia. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1989 Campaign Committee. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

**Workers' and Farmers' Governments in Power: Cuba, Algeria, Grenada, and Nicaragua.** Speaker: Malik Miah, National Committee Socialist Workers Party. Two classes Sun., July 9, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$1.50. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

## BRITAIN

### London

**Railworkers and Dockers: The Fight for Union Power.** Rob Higley, member National Union of Railwaymen. Fri., July 14, 7:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

# Infant mortality in Nicaragua

Continued from Page 8

reported a member of the teaching staff from the Francisco Buitrago Health Center.

With the decreasing of the diarrhea emergency, Montenegro said, health workers have to be convinced to work double shifts, to transfer to parts of the city where the situation is more serious, and to organize their personal lives more efficiently so they don't miss work.

"The union has developed a series of actions oriented to health workers so they are aware of the magnitude of the problem," the FETSALUD official said, "to develop a plan that makes it possible for the workers to con-

front this problem with the few resources that are available in each health facility."

Because of budget cuts, she pointed out, "there are more limitations on resources of all sorts — less paper goods, less medicines, less of everything. And we have a greater demand for services."

Despite ongoing problems in lowering the death rate from diarrhea, in early June Health Minister Dora María Téllez announced a slight decline in overall national figures for infant mortality compared to last year. Deaths from birth-related complications is the main arena in which progress has been made, she said.

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**Montréal:** 6566 boul. St-Laurent, H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

**Toronto:** 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

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## NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** 157a Symonds St. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

**Christchurch:** 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

**Wellington:** 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 844-205.

## SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** P.O. Box 5024, S-12505 Älvsjö. Tel: (08) 722-9342.



**Touchy?** — Fifteen airlines are currently showing *Rain Man*. In a key sequence, Dustin Hoffman's autistic savant refuses to board a plane, citing crash statistics he's



**Harry Ring**

memorized. All 15 airlines snipped the sequence.

**They care** — A United Airlines official explained the *Rain Man*

cut: "It's our policy to remove portions of feature films as they relate to violence, nudity, obscenities or anything that could create discomfort for passengers about being on an airplane."

**Israel's PR man** — "The elections have more importance from a public relations point of view than in a practical sense." — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his proposal to let Palestinians elect negotiators who meet with Israeli approval.

**Sleep well** — In 1975 a U.S. missile cruiser and an aircraft carrier collided, killing eight sailors and injuring 46. Now it's disclosed

that the missile carrier suffered an explosion and a fire that came within 40 feet of nuclear weapons. An admiral said: "We never faced the danger of a nuclear explosion. . . . But it could spread a lot of radiation around."

**Valuable cargo** — A former head of the international pilots' association told a London parley on air safety of the danger of the growing use of two-engine planes rather than three- or four-engine jets in areas where they can't make emergency landings. He said pilots "note that heads of state do not use such aircraft."

**Justice, British style** — A Brit-

ish occupation soldier at the Northern Ireland border who shot and killed a Sinn Féin election worker and said his gun discharged "accidentally" was fined an undisclosed sum by his company commander and returned to active duty.

**Adds a touch of excitement** — Despite deep concern by radioactivity experts, NASA plans to launch the Project Galileo shuttle flight in October. The shuttle will carry nearly 50 pounds of radioactive plutonium. Dispersed equally worldwide, it's enough to kill everyone on the planet.

**Changing lifestyles** — The Rolls Royce company used to ad-

vertise the Bentley as the same car as the Rolls except for the grill, recommending it for those who might feel diffident about driving a Rolls. Now at \$149,500, the Bentley Turbo R is touted as the world's most expensive production sedan. So, if you feel diffident about driving a Bentley. . . .

**Security blanket** — "Twenty years ago the average uniform badge was 2½-by-2½ inches. Today the average badge measures 3½-by-4 inches. I think it's because policemen feel they have to demonstrate their authority more, and a bigger badge helps do that." — Patrick Morales, a badgemaker.

## Youth from 179 countries at festival in Pyongyang

Continued from front page

which divides Korea in two. A concrete wall, erected by the South Korean regime, runs 240 kilometers along the barrier. Some 40,000 U.S. troops, armed with more than 1,000 nuclear weapons, are deployed on the southern side.

Rim is a member of the National Council of Student Representatives. She read a statement from her organization that expressed the proreunification sentiment of a large and increasing number of Koreans.

"The Korean peninsula is one," she began, "but for nearly 50 years we have been divided." Moves toward reunification have been obstructed "at home and abroad," the statement continued, referring to the joint effort of the U.S. and South Korean governments.

Korean youth, she said, desire a peaceful reunification — without the involvement of Washington — despite the different "political, ideological, and social systems," in North and South.

Rim referred to the violent repression of students in the South who have been organizing protests in favor of democratic rights, withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, and reunification.

### Korean War

In 1950 the U.S. government and 15 other capitalist countries sent hundreds of thousands of troops to Korea in an attempt to roll back the workers' and peasants' revolution in the North and save the U.S.-backed dictatorship in the South.

The U.S. armed forces dropped an average of 18 bombs on every square kilometer of the northern half of Korea, razing Pyongyang and other towns and villages. Three to four million Koreans were killed, with millions more maimed and wounded. More than 54,000 U.S. troops died, with more than 100,000 wounded.

But the U.S. government was unable to defeat the combined strength of the Korean and Chinese troops, and a truce was signed between Washington and Pyongyang in 1953. Washington has militarily occupied Korea, and politically and economically dominated the country, ever since.

Rim reported that the Seoul regime branded her arrival in Pyongyang a violation of the national security law; she was accused of "escaping" and meeting with the "enemy." This means she is subject to arrest when she returns home. A prominent clergyman and a member of Parliament were both jailed recently for traveling to Pyongyang.

In the wake of Rim's trip, 30 members of the National Council of Student Representatives were arrested and their Seoul office closed. Rim's house was searched by police.

The festival delegate said she would join a July 20-27 cross-country march in the North. Then she will attempt to return home through Panmunjom, the city of the Military Demarcation Line where the Military Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953.

### Voicing solidarity

Solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa, Palestine, and Central America has been in the forefront of festival participants' discussions.

Jackie Selebi, head of the South African delegation, spoke at the opening morning's unveiling of a monument to the festival. He stressed the need for solidarity with the Namibian people in their fight to win independence from South Africa.

Later in the day, delegates marched through the city to the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium, where the opening ceremony was held. Tens of thousands of Koreans lined the parade route. Each delegation carried the flag of the country they were from. Delegates came from more than 2,000 organizations.

A Palestinian delegation marched in military uniforms, flashing "V" signs. The contingent from El Salvador carried the flag of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. The Guatemalan participants held a sign from the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union.

The Nicaraguan delegation's sign read, "Victorious Nicaragua." The contingent from France carried a banner calling for cancellation of the foreign debt of poor countries.

A large delegation from Cuba was greeted with shouts of "Cuba! Fidel!" The Cuban delegation, in turn, helped lead the applause for those from other countries in conflict with imperialism.

The delegation from the South Pacific country of New Caledonia carried a banner that read "Kanaky," the name native fighters against French colonialism have given their country.

Kurdish activists from Iraq were also at the festival, talking about the regime's repression of the Kurdish people.

There were 100 people on the U.S. delegation, which carried banners against racism, apartheid, and U.S. nuclear weapons in Korea.

The delegation from Norway carried a banner reading, "Solidarity with the Chinese students," referring to last month's massacre in Beijing. A delegation from China is participating in the festival for the first time.

Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe and chairperson of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, spoke at the opening ceremony as did North Korean President Kim Il Sung.

Well over 1,000 events are taking place

during the festival, from round-table political discussions, solidarity rallies, and plenary sessions to sports matches, artistic performances, film showings, and visits to various sites in Pyongyang and elsewhere in North Korea.

Eight thematic centers are open all week as places for participants to exchange ideas and experiences. Their topics are: peace and disarmament, anti-imperialist solidarity and national liberation, economic development and a new world economic order, environmental protection, youth and children's rights, women's rights, and education and new technologies. An "anti-imperialist tribunal" is also holding hearings.

Leading up to the festival, there was some discussion about whether future festivals should continue to focus on the fight against imperialism, given the "trend toward global peace and stability," as one delegate put it. In the first few sessions at the anti-imperialist center, several speakers charged that Washington's talk about peace and disarmament is a smokescreen for continuing its military interventions, from Panama to the Persian Gulf to Korea, and stockpiling ever more nuclear weapons.

### Cuba

Large solidarity rallies have been held for Cuba and South Africa.

"U.S. imperialists must get out of Guantánamo" and "Condemn the U.S. imperialist moves against Cuba" read banners in English and Korean at the Cuba rally. A member of the U.S. delegation was one of the speakers. He condemned Washington's campaign of military, economic, and politi-

cal aggression against Cuba.

The head of the Cuban delegation read a message to the rally from Cuban President Fidel Castro.

James, a 16-year-old participant from Cuba, explained in an interview that Cuba's delegates were democratically elected from various schools and workplaces. James had joined the Union of Young Communists (UJC) just two months ago. In keeping with the political breadth of the festival, he stressed, the delegation from Cuba was open to all youth, not just UJC members.

Some 72 South Africans are participating in the festival, including several from within South Africa as well as exiled anti-apartheid fighters. The delegation included members of the African National Congress Youth and other organizations.

Twenty-four-year-old Erica Elk is one of two white South Africans who are here. She is a member of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), an organization of white students that opposes apartheid. NUSAS is an affiliate of the anti-apartheid umbrella coalition, the United Democratic Front.

Elk explained that whites in South Africa are "very isolated" from the realities of what apartheid means for Blacks. So the main job of her organization is to tell the truth and educate students.

When asked what NUSAS members would like to see in South Africa, Elk explained, "One person, one vote; a unitary South Africa" and implementation of the Freedom Charter, a broadly supported democratic program for South Africa that is backed by the African National Congress.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 13, 1979

President Carter is posing as a defender of democracy in Nicaragua. "It's unbelievable," rebel spokesperson Miguel D'Escoto said June 27. "Nicaragua has never had democracy and it's been the United States that has squelched attempts to create it."

Carter's real worry is that the people who have been fighting for democracy in Nicaragua are on the verge of winning. As long as dictator Anastasio Somoza was firmly in the saddle there was no sense of crisis in Washington, no alarms about the need to strengthen "democratic forces" in Nicaragua.

With the dictatorship crumbling day by day, Carter has urged Somoza's resignation. However, he has refused to cut ties to the tyrant. As of July 4 Washington was still recognizing Somoza as the legal ruler of Nicaragua.

### THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

July 13, 1964

NEW YORK — Malcolm X launched his long-awaited organization at a rally at the Audubon Ballroom here June 28. Its name is the Organization of Afro-American

Unity. As OAAU chairman, Malcolm X read aloud its Statement of Basic Aims and Objectives. After he had explained and expanded on these, applications for membership in the new organization were accepted.

Malcolm X recalled to the audience the prediction he had made when he first began to work among non-Muslim Afro-Americans. He then said that after the young people had a chance to consider the problem they would form either a black nationalist party or a black nationalist army. The OAAU, he said, is what those who have been working on the problem since then have come up with.

The OAAU's object is to win freedom, justice, equality, and dignity for Americans of African descent "by any means necessary."

The OAAU's second principle is the right of self-defense: This country is willing to go to war at the drop of a hat, said Malcolm X, while it preaches to black people that they should not defend themselves. Speaking of Mississippi, he said: "We could send brothers down there to form defense groups."

"Both parties are racist," declared Malcolm X. "Both parties have sold us out." The OAAU statement on political action says: "We will start immediately a voter-registration drive to make every unregistered voter in the Afro-American community an independent voter; we propose to support and/or organize political clubs, to run independent candidates for office."

## Participate in a Cuba tour

Trade unionists, solidarity activists, students, and others will be touring Cuba August 13-27. Departure is from Toronto, Canada. Program will include visits to factories, medical center, and a family doctor office. Meetings with workers and leaders of the Cuban Workers Federation, as well as participation in voluntary labor, are scheduled.

Group will stay at the Julio Antonio Mella International Center, and the program is organized by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples.

Cost is Cdn.\$850, including Toronto-Havana airfares, lodging, ground transportation in Cuba, and three meals a day. For more information call tour coordinator Linda Grabovsky at (416) 760-8292.



# Behind Bush's flag-waving

The administration of President George Bush is leading a bipartisan flag-waving campaign to try to deepen national chauvinist, antidemocratic, and prowar sentiment.

Bush has called for adoption of a constitutional amendment that would allow Congress and state legislatures to forbid "physical desecration of the flag of the United States." In proposing the amendment, Bush claimed to uphold the "precious right to dissent," but asserted that "burning the flag goes too far."

On June 28 the House of Representatives held a rare all-night session so that legislators of both parties could make speeches praising the flag and condemning a June 21 Supreme Court decision that voided laws barring burning and other forms of "desecration" of the flag.

Bush announced his amendment at a June 30 ceremony at the Washington, D.C., memorial to the World War II battle over the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. He declared, "For the sake of the fallen, for the men behind the guns, for every American, we will defend the flag of the United States of America."

The flag issue is being used to reinforce the myth that the people who live in the United States constitute one nation — "Americans" — who have common interests distinct from and opposed to those who live in other countries. The flag is portrayed as a sacred symbol of this national unity.

"Americans" have no common interests but are divided into ruling and exploited classes that are in irreconcilable conflict. The capitalist class, dominated by a handful of billionaire families, continues to accumulate enormous wealth through the exploitation and oppression of hundreds of millions of workers and farmers in the United States and around the world.

The lie that "Americans" are a single nationality with common interests covers up the oppression of Black peo-

ple and other oppressed national minorities in the United States.

The employing class tries to sell workers and farmers on the idea that "we Americans" are "all in the same boat" in order to gain support for takebacks and union-weakening contracts, attacks on immigrant workers, and trade wars against the competitors of U.S. capitalists in other countries.

From the Spanish-American war in 1898 to World War II to the invasion of Grenada and the attacks on Iran in the Persian Gulf, the big capitalist families have sacrificed the lives of millions of young workers and farmers in wars and military operations. These have been carried out not to defend the flag or "Americans," but to protect and increase the wealth and power of U.S. imperialism.

Workers and farmers in "enemy" countries have invariably been portrayed as foes of "Americans," concealing that working people in the United States share common interests with them in opposition to the imperialist rulers.

The capitalist rulers have an interest in chipping away at the democratic rights that working people succeeded in having codified in the Bill of Rights. In the view of the billionaire families, those who go "too far" and need to be further restricted are not a few individuals who burn flags, but working people like the thousands of Eastern Airlines workers and coal miners who have gone on strike to defend their unions and others who oppose the policies of the U.S. ruling class.

Working people have a life-and-death stake in opposing all restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly, association, religion, and press. Workers and farmers should oppose the demagogic use of the flag issue to justify an attack on the constitutional provisions that recognize these rights.

# Stakes in abortion rights battle

Continued from front page  
by the Supreme Court.

The context in which this attack on women's rights occurs is one of sharpening class conflict in the United States. There are major strike struggles at Eastern Airlines and in the coalfields that have widespread solidarity in the labor movement throughout the country.

By giving the go-ahead to state legislatures to enact a wide range of restrictive measures, the July 3 ruling encourages and places new, more powerful weapons in the hands of those fighting to take back women's right to abortion.

The court's decision is a grave setback to the constitutional right to privacy that the courts have been forced to recognize by struggles of working people, including by the massive civil rights movement and by women's rights fighters.

It puts the government in a stronger position to undertake further attacks on the right to use contraception, impose more government controls over women who are pregnant, and to carry out other attacks on people's rights to make decisions about their private lives without government interference.

Together with the recent string of Supreme Court rulings chopping away at affirmative action programs, the latest ruling marks a major assault on gains that the oppressed and exploited have won in recent decades.

Working people and their allies will now face a more serious challenge in defending and reconquering the gains registered in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion and advanced the right to privacy.

The latest ruling hits working-class women the hardest — especially those who are Black and Latina. Working people are prime targets of the Missouri restrictions that virtually barred the use of public facilities for abortions, and forbid public doctors and nurses from assisting the operations.

Many women seeking abortions will now be subjected to expensive, time-consuming, and intrusive tests to determine viability of the fetus. For many women, the cost of these procedures may place a legal abortion out of reach.

The ruling won't mean fewer abortions. The rich will continue to be able to get abortions as easily as they did before the 1973 decision. Others — above all the poor — will increasingly resort to back-alley abortionists. More working-class women will die because of unsanitary and botched operations.

The impact of this blow will be felt in other countries as well. On July 4, in Canada, the Ontario Supreme Court granted an injunction blocking a 22-year-old woman from having an abortion. That court proclaimed itself guardian of the fetus in order, it said, to prevent the woman from "taking the life of the infant."

Laws that place ever-rising barriers in the way of women seeking abortions reinforce a political, social, legal, and ideological framework that enables the capitalist ruling class to treat women as second-class citizens.

The right of women to choose if and when to have a child without requiring the consent of parents, husband, boyfriend, clergy, or government is essential for women winning full equality. Only with this right are women able to partici-

ipate on an equal footing in the work force and in social and political life.

By striking at affirmative action and abortion rights, the court has aimed its blows at rights that are essential to the efforts of the working class to unite in battle against the offensive of the employing class, which is aimed at driving down our standard of living and further restricting our liberties.

Abortion rights and affirmative action are among the weapons that women, Blacks, and other oppressed people have used to advance the fight for full equality — a fight that strengthens all working people in the struggle against the exploiters.

The capitalist ruling class, which the high court serves, is seeking to reinforce racial, sexual, and other divisions among workers and farmers. These divisions make it easier for them to hold down the wages of all workers and weaken our resistance to attacks on living standards and unions.

The court's rulings come after a decade in which a process of resegregation has been taking place. Working people who are Black and Latino are being shunted into separate, deteriorating schools and neighborhoods — and a disproportionate number into jails and prison death rows.

Working people who are Black or of other oppressed national minorities face worsening health, including relatively higher rates of infant mortality, disproportionately more cases of tuberculosis and AIDS, and declining life expectancy.

The affirmative action decisions enable the rulers to probe openings to extend this resegregation further into the job market and workplace, and to further limit advances won by women in these areas as well.

The fight to defend abortion rights is a cutting edge in the battle that workers and their unions need to wage against the web of divisions among us that the capitalist rulers have created.

In response to the threat of a negative ruling on abortion rights, 500,000 people marched in Washington, D.C., April 9 to demand women's right to choose.

This shows the potential for a genuinely massive response to the call by the National Organization for Women for another national mobilization in Washington in October. Such an action can contribute to building the kind of broad movement necessary to guarantee women's right to abortion.

The July 3 ruling registers a big gain for the ruling-class drive to overturn abortion rights, but the war over this is far from over. The outcome will not be decided by the Supreme Court, but in battles that remain to be fought across the United States and internationally.

Working-class fighters in battles like those being waged against Eastern Airlines and in the coalfields increasingly recognize the attacks on abortion and other democratic rights as part and parcel of the employers' antilabor offensive. There are growing opportunities to bring the issue of abortion rights into the unions, to educate about its vital importance for women and all working people, and to draw broadening layers of workers and farmers into the struggle to defend women's right to choose.

# Population control: the answer to finite resources?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Both labor and nature are the source of social wealth. To that accurate observation, *Militant* reader Andy Feeney, in a letter in the last issue, adds that "the world's raw material wealth is limited, even if it is very large." This, he concludes, places a limit on the amount of social wealth that can be produced and, therefore, on the number of people that can be sustained on earth. That's why, he

# LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

argues, "socialists do need to think about overpopulation. Both the Marxist leadership of Zimbabwe and the badly deformed workers' state in China have recognized this by implementing ambitious birth control programs. American socialists should avoid China's mistakes, but we need to think about birth control too."

Back in 1798, Thomas Malthus argued that the rate of human births was so much greater than the capacity to produce food that overpopulation was the inevitable result. This notion, however, has been crushed under the weight of facts, which show that farmers today are able to produce enough food for all 5 billion of us. That isn't to say that there isn't wide-scale hunger in the world. But that is the result of capitalist oppression and exploitation, which impoverishes tens of millions of people, not the lack of food-producing capacity.

In the face of the advances in technology and labor productivity that have made increased food production possible, a good many population control advocates concede that Malthus's prediction was inaccurate, or at least untimely. They argue that big gains in production may have been possible up until now and even for awhile to come, but a day of reckoning is coming when we will run out of coal, oil, and other resources necessary to sustain the current level of productive capacity. The sooner we prevent the population from getting any larger, they contend, the longer we will be able to stretch out the time that we can feed ourselves.

It is indisputable that there's a finite amount of fossil fuel, minerals, water, and other resources on earth (although no one knows exactly the full extent of the supply). Moreover, there's no doubt that the wanton waste of nature's storehouse and the threats posed to the entire global environment are grave.

But where Feeney and others with similar worries go wrong is that they assume the permanent existence, or at least a long lifetime, for a world dominated by capitalism. If capitalism is permitted to last a long time their warnings would have some merit. The private owners of banking, industry, and commerce are concerned only about their immediate profits and don't care how fast they use up valuable natural resources. Their course, which makes the earth an object of huckstering, is hurling us toward destruction.

But the capitalist system isn't eternal. Its own crises are going to spur millions of working people into political activity and open opportunities for wresting power from the ruling families.

When working people establish their own rule, expropriate the capitalist profiteers, and establish a planned economy under their own administration, the foundation can be laid for the first time to reverse the criminal destruction of our environment and halt the unrestricted waste of our natural resources.

"But," the population controllers will object, "industry in a socialist society will still need oil or coal. Tractors will still need fuel. Even if it's less wasteful, a socialist society will ultimately have to face the limits of unrenewable natural resources."

It's true that replacing capitalist rule for the rule of working people doesn't eliminate factories, mills, refineries, or tractors. Nor is there anything inherent in state-owned enterprises or a planned economy that will eliminate pollution or conserve resources.

It will take a conscious, political effort, by a leadership that puts the interests of working people and all of humanity first, to organize the most prudent and safe use of what nature has endowed us and to develop new sources of energy.

Fossil fuels aren't the only potential source of power. If scientific research is directed toward developing solar power and other energy possibilities, not with the goal of making profits, but meeting a social need, these problems can be resolved.

The relationship between our species and nature doesn't have to be limited to simply using up resources with the end result being mass starvation. But the prerequisite for proving this is overturning capitalist rule and establishing a society where profits are no longer the guiding principle. This, not population control, is what socialist workers should advocate.



# Rocky Flats inquiry: worry about environment grows

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

DENVER — Profound changes have taken place here in the last 20 years in people's understanding of the need to protect the environment.

The headline on the July 2 *Denver Post* read, "Gov. Romer should shut Flats, 42% in state survey say." The Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant has been in the news

## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

continuously since June 6 when scores of federal agents descended on the production facility northwest of Denver searching for evidence of illegal disposal of hazardous waste.

The *Post* reported that 77 percent of those who want to shut the plant wouldn't change their minds even if President George Bush said closing Rocky Flats would endanger national security.

This new awareness in Denver of the dangers of environmental abuse by the government and big business is part of a national trend.

The front page of the July 2 *New York Times* reported that "public support for greater environmental efforts regardless of cost has soared recently."

Eighty percent of the people interviewed in June agreed with the statement, "Protecting the environment is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high, and continuing environmental improvements must be made regardless of cost."

From 1986 to '88 polls had recorded ratings in the 65 percent range. In September 1981, only 45 percent agreed, and 42 percent disagreed, with the statement.

An article accompanying the *New York Times* poll noted, "A new form of environmental protest is spreading through the country as thousands of people band together in small groups."

An indication of how quickly these groups are growing is the doubling in the last two years of community groups

in contact with the National Toxics Campaign, a Boston-based organization that offers technical assistance to local environmental activists. Moreover, when the National Library of Medicine began offering profiles of the chemical emissions from particular plants on a computer data base accessible by telephone in June, they received 225 requests for subscriptions in the first week.

Distrust of the government and big business doing something about environmental problems has been fueled by transportation breakdowns, increasing hazards on the job, and other effects of growing attacks on working people.

Across the country, the effects of pollution are becoming more visible. A faint brown haze began to form on the horizon in Denver in the early 1970s. Today when you land at Denver's Stapleton Airport, the plane descends through thousands of feet of a sickly red-brown fog. At one time, only a storm would obscure the view of the three ranges of mountains rising just to the west of Denver; today, it's a special morning when there's a clear view of all three.

In the first half of this century, people moved to Denver on the advice of doctors who said that breathing the crystal clear air would help those who suffered from tuberculosis or other respiratory problems.

Today, the pollution level is a regular part of the morning news broadcasts. Many days of the year people with breathing problems are advised against going outdoors.

Environmental problems here have gotten worse as the U.S. military in Colorado has expanded, beginning during World War II. Nerve gas plants, a giant military hospital, and air force training centers were set up. The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) burrowed deep into Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs.

Department of Defense figures for 1987, the most current available, showed that military spending in Colorado totaled \$4.4 billion. Unlike many areas in the United States where military bases have been closed recently, military spending in Colorado is slated to increase in 1990.

It is amazing today to look back at the casual approach most people in Colorado took in the 1960s and '70s

toward the hazards accompanying the military presence.

It used to be you could set your watch by the 2:00 p.m. sonic booms caused by fighter bombers practicing. Earthquakes were caused by the massive pumping of contaminated water into the ground by the military. Children guessed the strength of these tremors by how much the china shook on the shelves in the kitchen.

It's not that people weren't aware of toxic and radioactive waste being dumped in Denver — it just didn't seem like a serious problem.

For example, much of the chemical weapons produced for World War II were stored and "disposed" of out at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

This old farm area was also the site of the Denver Girl Scouts summer camp.

By special arrangement with the military, hundreds of Brownies, Juniors, and Seniors would spend summer days away from the heat and noise of the city learning to tie knots under the shade trees and eating the old-fashioned plums that still grew in the abandoned orchards.

Every day, the drive in and out of the arsenal took children by interesting pools of toxic waste.

Rickety chain link fences with danger signs surrounded the pools of bubbling orange and lime-green goo.

Risks that seem unimaginable today were accepted as harmless 20 years ago.

Everybody knew that Rocky Flats produced plutonium triggers for nuclear warheads and shipped them out by rail. Eventually there were protests — sit-ins on the railroad tracks and speak-outs — but nothing on the level to force a federal investigation such as the one taking place now.

Colorado's chief federal judge has even impaneled a special grand jury to look into allegations of environmental crimes at Rocky Flats.

A new group backed by the Colorado Council of Churches has called a town meeting on Saturday, July 23, to demand information from public officials on possible dangers at Rocky Flats. An indication of the expected size of the turnout is that organizers have rented Mile High Stadium for the event.

## LETTERS

### 'One small victory'

The enclosed letter was sent to International Association of Machinists Lodge 1690, on strike against Eastern Airlines in Atlanta. Liz Ziers, Atlanta, Georgia

Dear sisters and brothers of the Eastern strike,

Last week I received a call from a friend who was flying to Atlanta from Miami to join a Women's Convoy to Central America. My friend told me she would be flying on Eastern due to the low fare, less than half the normal cost.

We talked about the strike and your struggle. I told her that the low fare was just a way that Eastern was trying to break the strike.

We in the Central America movement, who are working for justice for the people of Central America, must also support the struggles for justice here at home.

To make a long story short, she agreed and changed her flight to Braniff Airlines. One small victory for you all.

We wish you good luck in your continuing struggle.

Robin Singer  
Atlanta Committee on Latin America  
Atlanta, Georgia

### China forum

Your roundup article reporting that Militant Labor Forums sponsored meetings around the country

on the events in China failed to mention the one in St. Louis on June 17.

After a presentation by Kim Kleinman of the Socialist Workers Party, a lively discussion took place that included the participation of five Chinese students.

Much of the discussion focused on the question: What is communism? One of the students explained that he was not sure what the ultimate goal of the struggle should be, but it is important to fight for democratic rights now.

In addition to discussing the struggle and the repression in China, we also talked about the Cuban revolution, the roots of Stalinism, the historic gains and limitations of the Chinese revolution, and the current labor battles at Eastern Airlines and in the coal industry. Regular participants in the St. Louis Militant Labor Forum series agree that it was the most interesting, lively, and thought-provoking discussion we have had in quite some time.

David Rosenfeld  
St. Louis, Missouri

### Int'l Indian celebration

On behalf of the Minneapolis American Indian Movement Patrol, we are asking for your support again with donations of money, food, gifts, and items for the 21st anniversary celebration of AIM to be held here.

It is a tradition of Indian people to honor each other with esteem in recognition of their achievements. One of the ways to perpetuate this tradition is to celebrate their lives through song and dance.

We are again planning a larger event this year at Fort Snelling Historical State Park, with drums, dancers, and a traditional giveaway, along with a traditional Indian feast. The International Traditional Celebration will take place over the Labor Day weekend, September 1-4.

Bring your families and friends to join us in our time of celebration!

Please make your donations to Minneapolis AIM Patrol, Inc.,

1308 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. 55404.

Clyde Bellecourt  
Founder/Director  
American Indian Movement

William Means  
President, AIM Patrol

Ron Bear Cronick  
Director, AIM Patrol

### Indians' religious rights

One democratic right that most Americans take for granted is the freedom of religion. An exception to this is the Native Americans, who have no right to practice their religion.

I want to ask your readers to support and strengthen the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978. Write your representatives in support of HR 1546, and support the Native American Rights Fund, 1506 Broadway, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

Gary McIntire  
St. Paris, Ohio

### Minimum wage

What a paradox. George Bush, U.S. president, condemns flag-burning by those protesting injustice.

Yet he doesn't comprehend the importance of an increase in the minimum wage. Meanwhile, senators, congressmen, and judges merit \$20,000 to \$25,000 more annually.

"Flag-burning is dead wrong," says the president of our country. Well, George Bush, have I got news for you: so is the present minimum wage restriction decreed by the Senate with the approval of Congress.

Additionally, the minimum wage does not provide for cost-of-living expenditures, inflation, or even the barest subsistence. At best a blanket could be rented to the unfortunate left out in the cold.

Lee-Steven Hutchison  
Seattle, Washington

### Anti-apartheid rally

People came from Austin, Dallas, and several other cities to be



part of a march and rally in Houston demanding that the South African consulate be closed. The June 17 action called for an end to all U.S. ties to South Africa and freedom for political prisoners there.

We chanted anti-apartheid slogans as we marched to the nearby office complex that houses the South African consulate.

Representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia spoke for a few minutes each, emphasizing the need to continue demanding sanctions against South Africa and

spreading the truth about apartheid.

Across the street, some 40 counterdemonstrators held up placards and banners with anticommunist slogans. Their shouts were easily drowned out by the anti-apartheid chants.

Chuck Guerra  
Houston, Texas

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

### Correction

The photo caption accompanying the article "Unionists picket scab hiring session in Alabama" in the July 7 issue refers to a June 11 labor rally in Charleston, West Virginia, as a miners' solidarity rally. The action was actually called both in support of the Pittston and New Beckley miners and Eastern Airlines strikers.



## Angola cease-fire pact reached

### Helps end bloody toll of 14-year U.S.-backed war

BY SAM MANUEL

Angolan government leaders and heads of the rightist group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), agreed to a cease-fire at a June 22 summit meeting hosted by more than a dozen African heads of governments. The meeting was held in Gbadolite, Zaire.

The Gbadolite Declaration, as the agreement is called, established "the end of all hostilities," and the "proclamation of a cease-fire." It expressed the "desire of all sons and daughters of Angola to end the war and to proclaim national reconciliation." The declaration also established a commission charged with "preparing the implementation of this national reconciliation."

The cease-fire represents another advance in ending a 14-year U.S.- and South African-backed war against Angola in which an estimated 100,000 people have been killed.

#### South African defeat

South African and UNITA troops were dealt a decisive defeat by forces of Angola, Cuba, and the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia. This occurred at the strategic battle in March 1988 around the southeastern Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale. Following their defeat, the South African government agreed to withdraw its troops from Angola, begin implementation of a United Nations plan for the independence of South African-ruled Namibia, and halt all aid to UNITA.

In addition to the supplies it receives from the South African and U.S. governments, UNITA's "bunker" in southeastern Angola has enjoyed the shelter of air and artillery cover from a string of South African bases along the Namibian-Angolan border. If the current process toward an independent Namibia is successful, the rightist group could be deprived of that secure rear base.

Thousands of exiled supporters of the South West Africa People's Organisation, including several of its top leaders, returned to Namibia in June. SWAPO officially opened headquarters in Namibia's capital of Windhoek on June 22. UN officials asserted that South African troops in Namibia had been cut to 1,500 at the end of June.

#### Cuba welcomes cease-fire

Cuba's President Fidel Castro welcomed the Angolan cease-fire in a June 25 letter to Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos. The military and diplomatic actions of Cuba and Angola, Castro wrote, were aimed at reaching the goal of "independence for Namibia, safety for Angola, and peace in southwest Africa." Castro called the cease-fire, reduction of South African troops, and return of Namibian exiles, "decisive steps in the process in which we have been involved."

"More importantly, the people of the continent's southern cone, the African countries, will now be able to concentrate on the great historic task, which is the sacred duty of all, the battle for the abolition of the apartheid regime and the establishment of a democratic, united, and nonracist South Africa," explained the Cuban leader.

"Cuba was, is, and always will be together with its brother African people," wrote Castro, "and will take up as its own the liberation of South Africans, all of them — Black, mestizo, Indian, and white — from the yoke of the anachronistic apartheid regime."

Last year's defeat of the South African forces has increased UNITA's isolation. In a June 28 broadcast on the rightist outfit's clandestine radio, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi explained that Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko was chosen to mediate the cease-fire because his government was the only one that had friendly relations with UNITA.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler said the cease-fire agreement was "a significant breakthrough," but

added that the Bush administration had not changed its policy of providing arms to UNITA. But during a visit to consult with President George Bush at the end of June, President Mobutu urged an end to arms shipment to Angola by the U.S. and Soviet governments. Much of the \$15 million a year in U.S. aid to Savimbi's forces is shipped through Zaire. A growing number of African presidents have taken a stand opposing continued U.S. aid to UNITA.

#### Angolan peace proposal

During a May 16 summit of the Organization of African Unity in Luanda, the Angolan capital, the government of President dos Santos issued a seven-point peace proposal to end the fighting in Angola. It provided amnesty for UNITA forces who would lay down their

arms and their integration into existing government structures. Weeks before the Gbadolite summit the Angola government released 700 UNITA prisoners as a gesture of goodwill.

Mobutu and Zambia's President Kaunda, two of the central figures in arranging the cease-fire, have stated that UNITA had agreed to the main provisions of the Angolan government proposal. They have also implied that Savimbi has agreed to not be involved in the negotiations and to leave Angola for two years.

According to a June 23 French Press Agency report, Mobutu confirmed that UNITA had agreed to integration into the Angolan government and that Savimbi "had no intention of participating in any future government." On that same day, President

Kaunda told the British Broadcasting Corporation that Savimbi had agreed to go out of Angola, "to help cement the agreement."

However, on June 28 Savimbi restated the rightist group's rejection of the Angolan government peace plan and called for establishment of an interim government to prepare elections. The UNITA leader denied he would leave Angola.

On June 30 the Angolan government temporarily suspended negotiations with UNITA representatives citing an attack by the rightist group on a civilian vehicle convoy and its cutting of power lines to Luanda. The rightist group has denied responsibility for those actions. Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro Van Dunem said the peace process would not be interrupted because of the incident.

## Solidarity with Pittston coal strike

### key theme at women miners' meet



Members of the Daughters of Mother Jones, a group of wives and supporters of striking Pittston coal miners, participated in conference.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Dedicated "To the men, women, and children on the Pittston picket lines" the 11th National Conference of Women Miners took place here on June 23-25.

The conference was sponsored by the Coal Employment Project and Coal Mining Women's Support Team and brought together women coal miners from 12 states.

The CEP was formed in 1977 to help open up jobs for women in coal mining, combat discrimination and harassment on the job, improve mine health and safety, and to provide a support organization for women coal miners.

The gathering drew about 130 people, less than previous conferences. "The fact that many miners have just gone out on strike has had an impact on the size of the conference this year," explained CEP staff member Shirley Harkins. Many United Mine Workers locals "canceled their delegations at the last minute to dedicate their resources to the strike."

#### Daughters of Mother Jones

Some of the 60 or so miners present were laid off, but the majority were on strike in solidarity with the Pittston coal miners.

Clad in army camouflage T-shirts, a group of Pittston miners wives and supporters who call themselves Daughters of Mother Jones set the tone for the weekend's

activities. Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was a mine union organizer and a militant figure in the U.S. labor movement for many years until her death in 1930.

"Three years ago I never would have thought that I would be doing this today," said Julie Cook. "Me neither. I've been arrested twice," added Sandra Smith. Smith, 25, and Cook, who is in her late 50s, were describing the experiences they have been through since the Pittston strike began in April. As members of Daughters of Mother Jones they have been on the road quite a bit, gaining solidarity for the strike, they explained.

John Banovic, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America and the keynote speaker at the conference rally, said "The Pittston strike will go down in history. It will be remembered," he said, "because of the solidarity of our members on strike and their wives and children who have formed the union's first student auxiliary."

Rebecca Flores Harrington, a representative of the United Farm Workers union, made a presentation and showed a movie put out by the UFW on the grape growers' extensive use of pesticides. The conference adopted a resolution calling for the boycott of California table grapes.

Workshops held during the gathering took up questions such as the future directions for the CEP, health and safety, paren-

tal leave, United Mine Workers of America issues and contract, women in leadership roles in the UMWA, family auxiliaries, effects of layoff, and sexual harassment.

Speaking at the "Life After Layoff" workshop, Chris Weiss, a consultant for the Ms. Foundation Economic Development/Technical Assistance Project, noted that in 1980 in West Virginia there were about 1,100 women miners. Today she estimates the number to be 250.

Allyson Kennedy, an underground coal miner from Alabama, pointed out during one of the workshop discussions that the recent rulings by the Supreme Court limiting affirmative action are a blow to working people. There was no further discussion on this issue at the conference, however.

#### UMWA delegation to Britain

A workshop on coalition-building heard a report from a delegation of women coal miners who had just returned from the 100th anniversary event of the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain.

Describing the gala, Carol Davis, a member of the CEP Board of Directors who was part of the delegation said, "To me it was like one big union meeting. We met miners from all over the world."

Lisa Parnell, a miner from Alabama who was on the delegation, described the harassment she had been subjected to by U.S.

Continued on Page 11